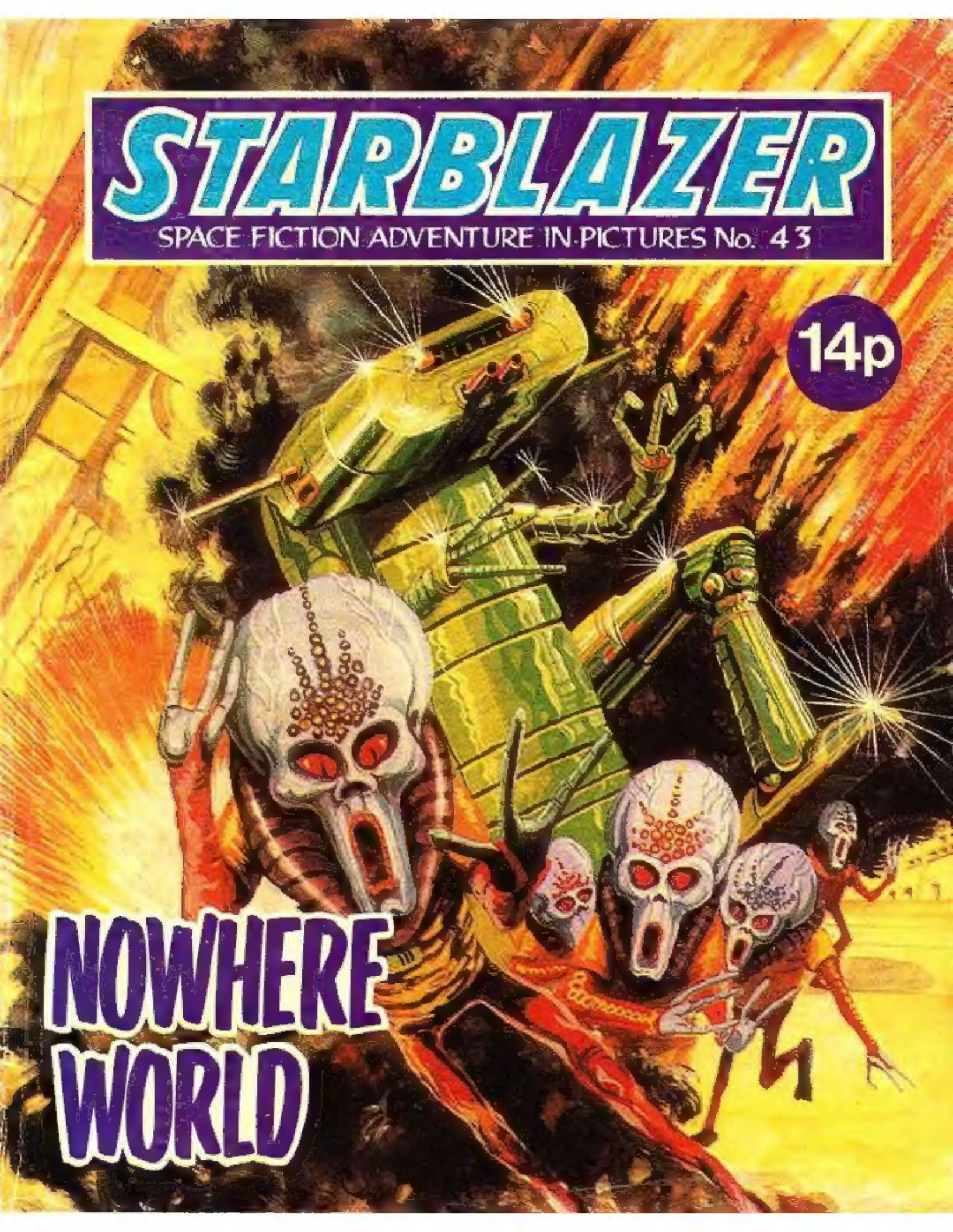


STARBLAZER

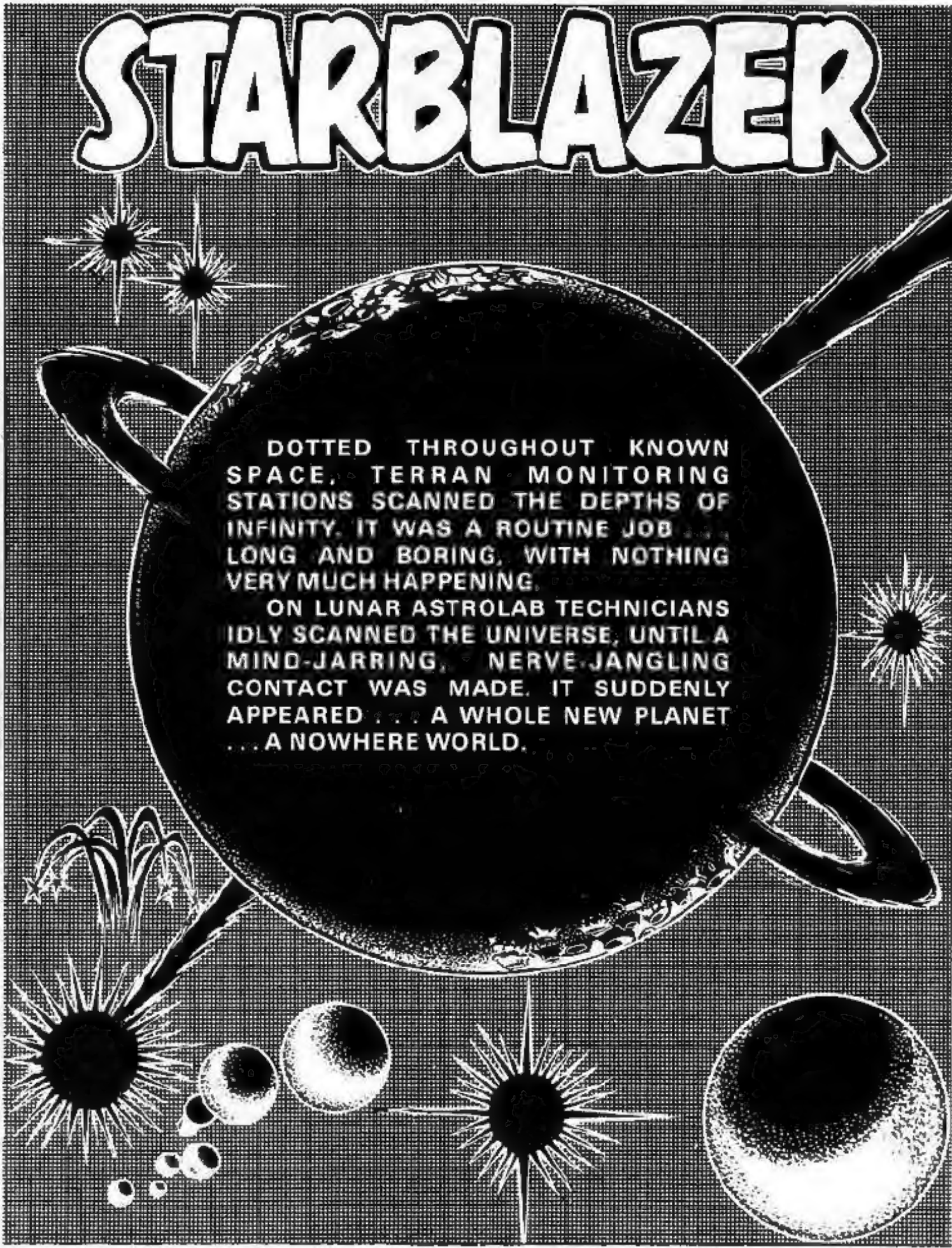
SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 43

14p

NOWHERE
WORLD



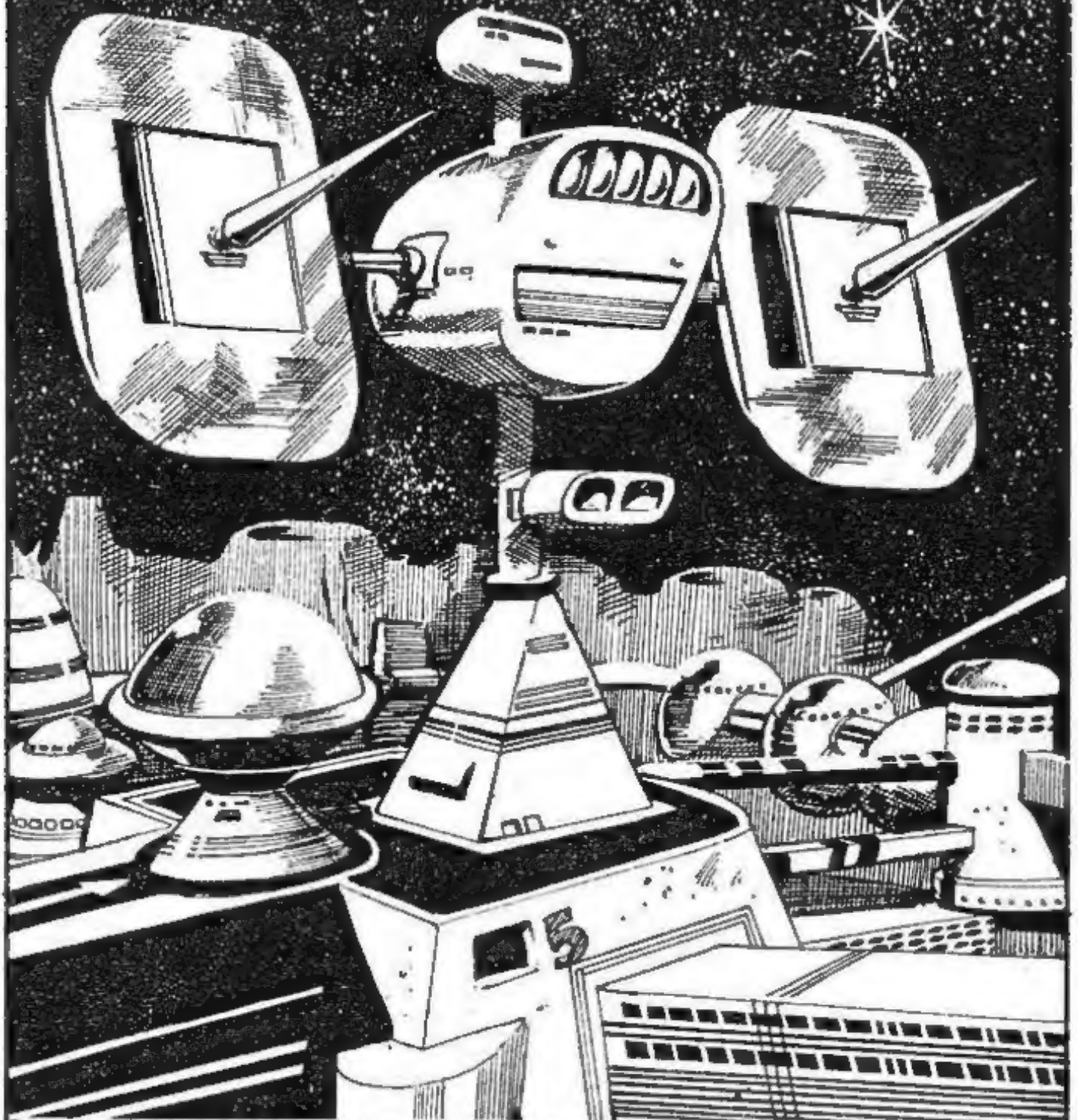
STARBLAZER



DOTTED THROUGHOUT KNOWN SPACE, TERRAN MONITORING STATIONS SCANNED THE DEPTHS OF INFINITY. IT WAS A ROUTINE JOB ... LONG AND BORING, WITH NOTHING VERY MUCH HAPPENING.

ON LUNAR ASTROLAB TECHNICIANS IDLY SCANNED THE UNIVERSE, UNTIL A MIND-JARRING, NERVE-JANGLING CONTACT WAS MADE. IT SUDDENLY APPEARED ... A WHOLE NEW PLANET ... A NOWHERE WORLD.

NOWHERE WORLD



THE ALERT SYSTEMS AUTOMATICALLY CONTACTED THE DUTY CREW ON LUNAR ASTROLAB.





NO! I'VE CHECKED. THE ONLY EXPLANATION IS THAT IT'S BEEN TRAVELLING FASTER THAN LIGHT AND HAS JUST DECELERATED.

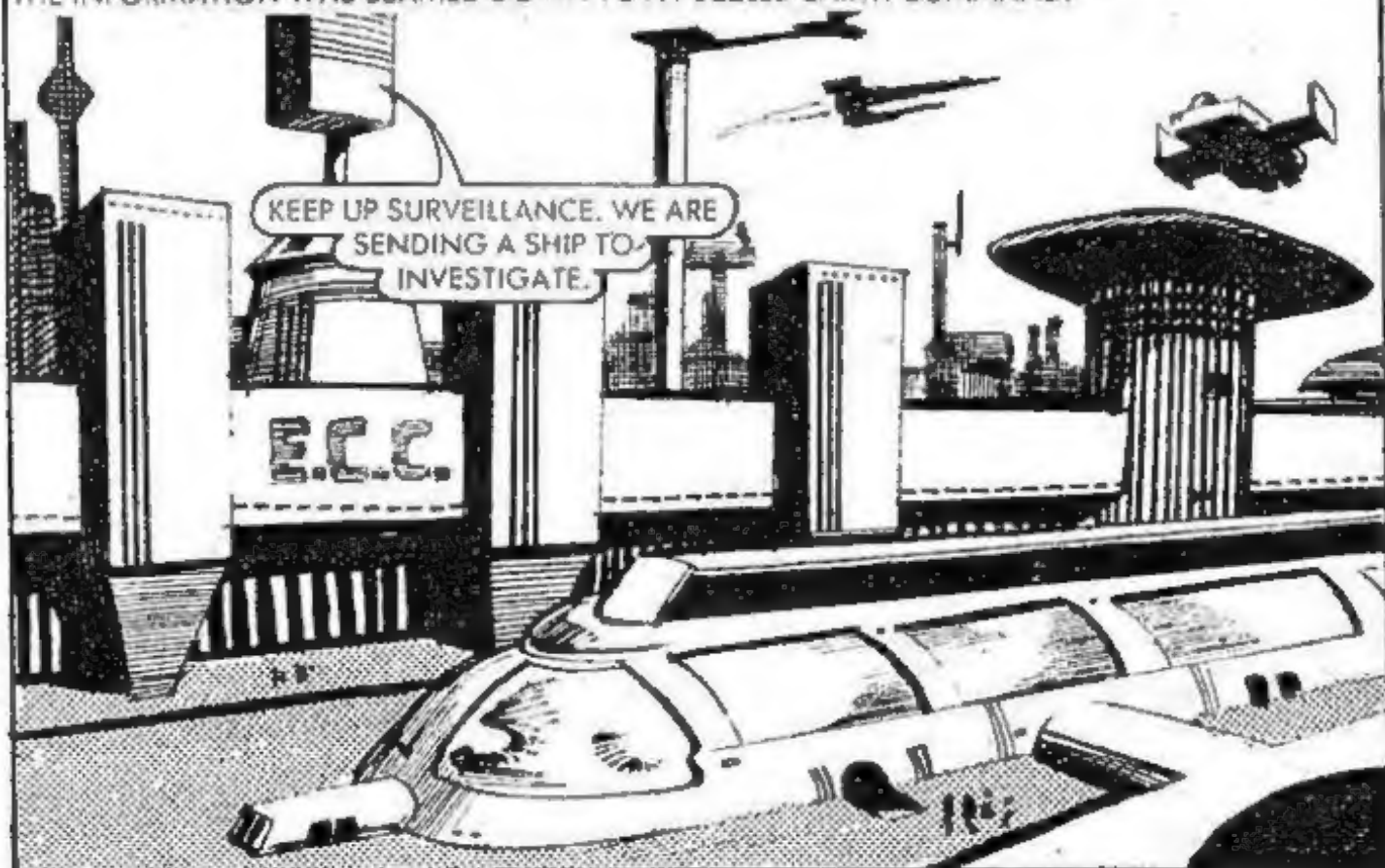
SOMETHING THAT SIZE? IMPOSSIBLE!



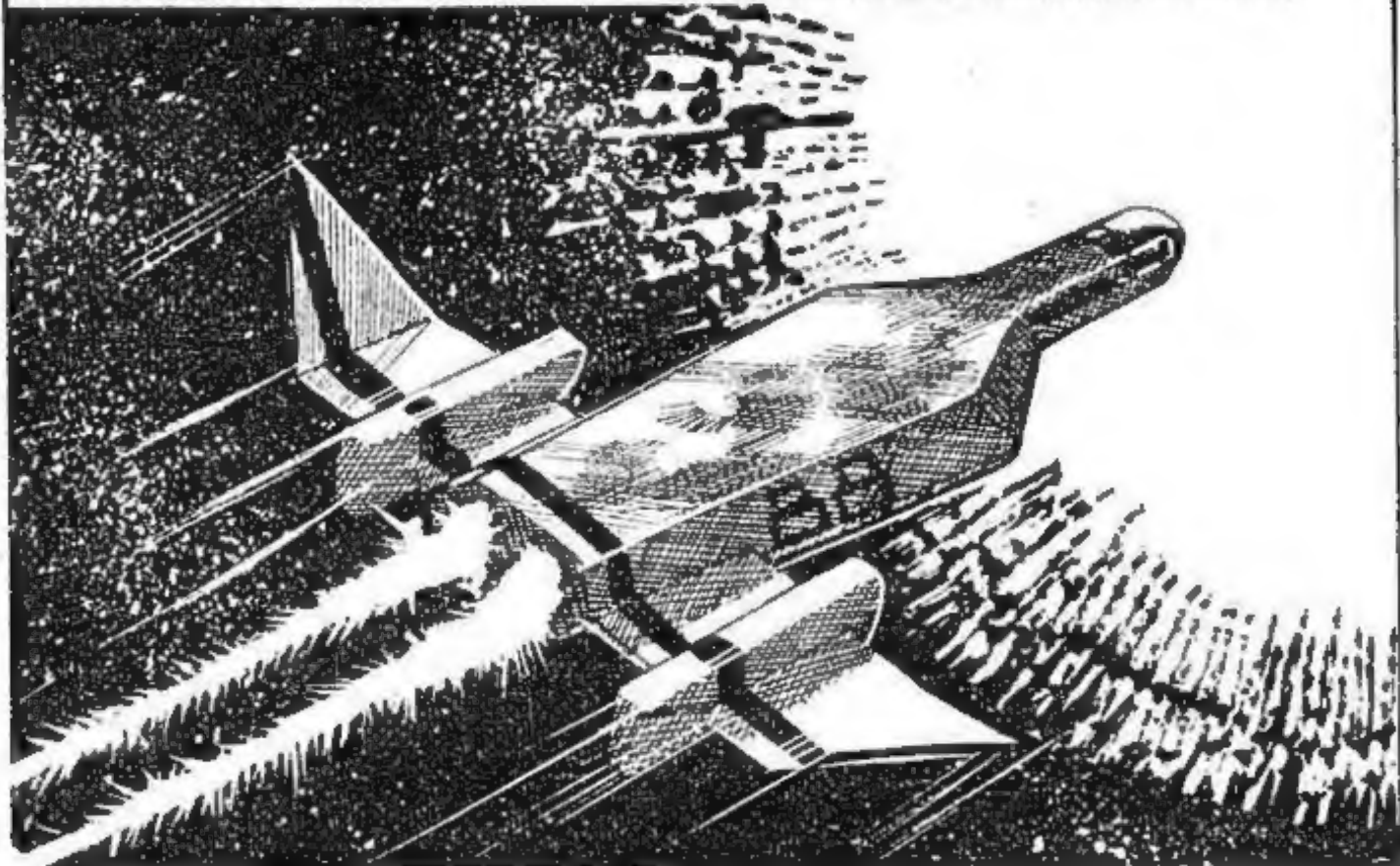
MAYBE, BUT WE'D BETTER INFORM EARTH CENTRAL COMMAND.

YES! THIS IS OUT OF OUR REALM.

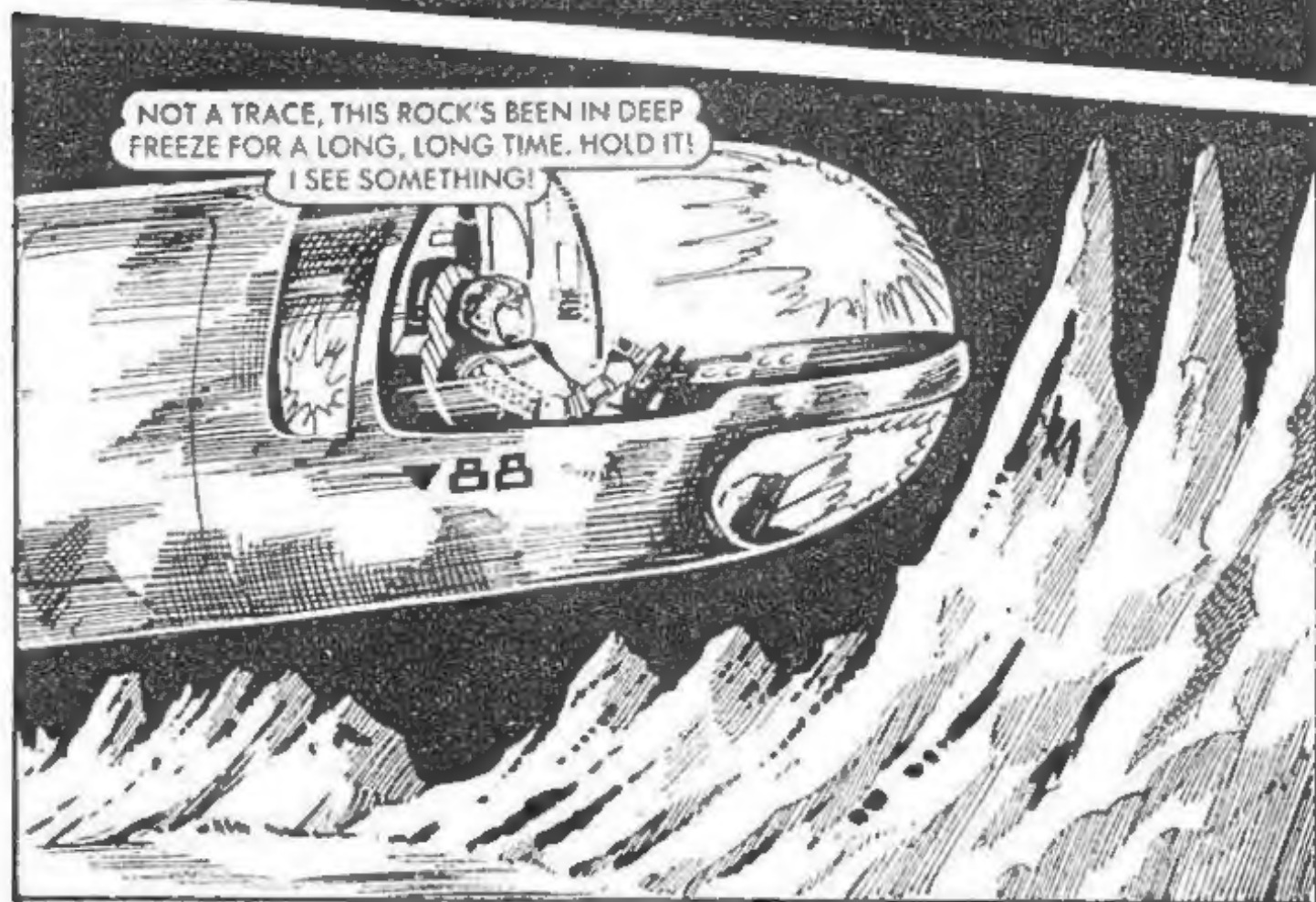
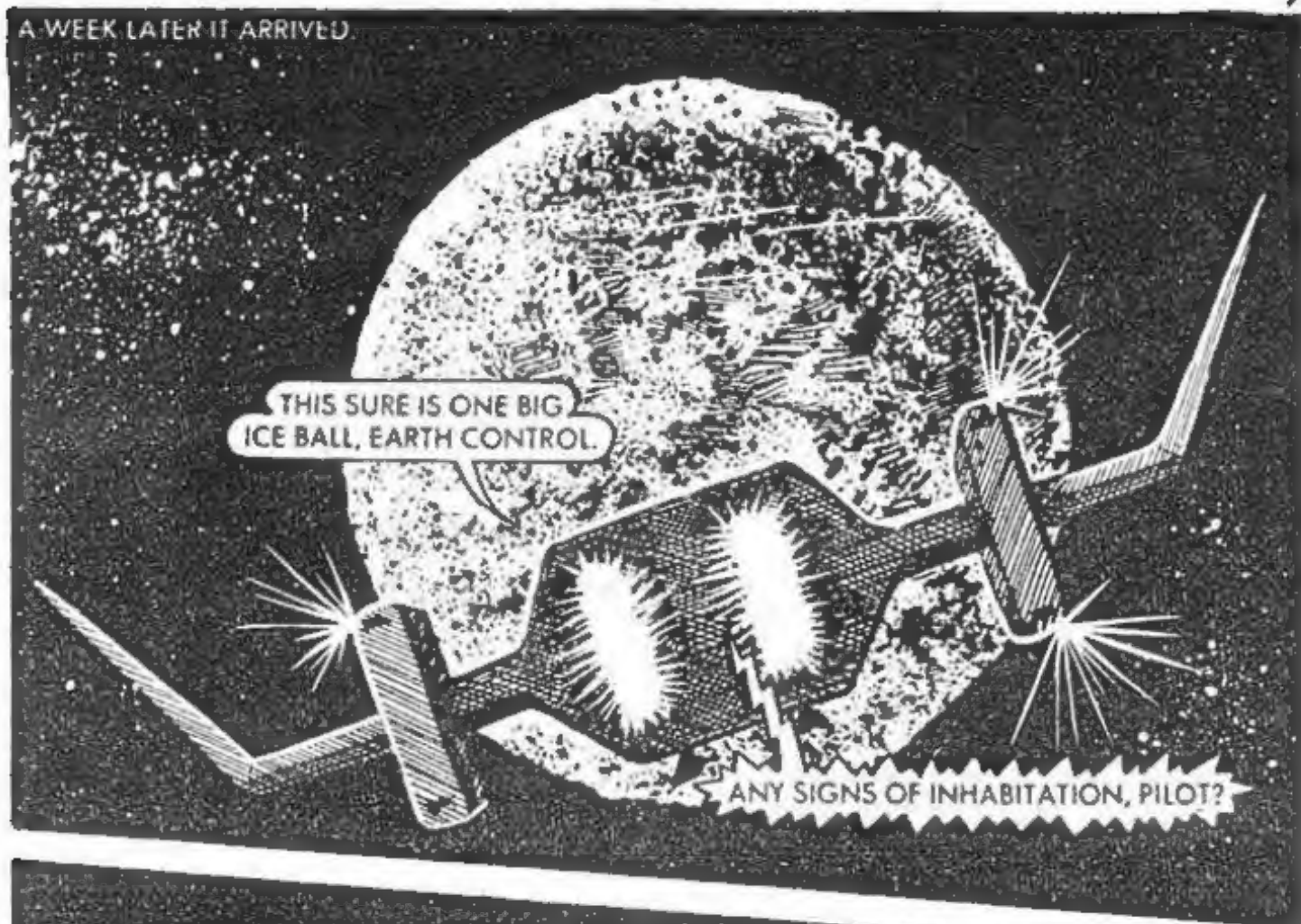
THE INFORMATION WAS BEAMED DOWN TO A PUZZLED EARTH COMMAND.



WITHIN THE HOUR A FAST SCOUTER WAS BLURRING FOR A RENDEVOUS WITH THE PLANET.



A WEEK LATER IT ARRIVED.





BEFORE THE SCOUTER COULD MAKE AN IDENTIFICATION AN ENERGY BOLT LANCED OUT.



IN EARTH CONTROL.

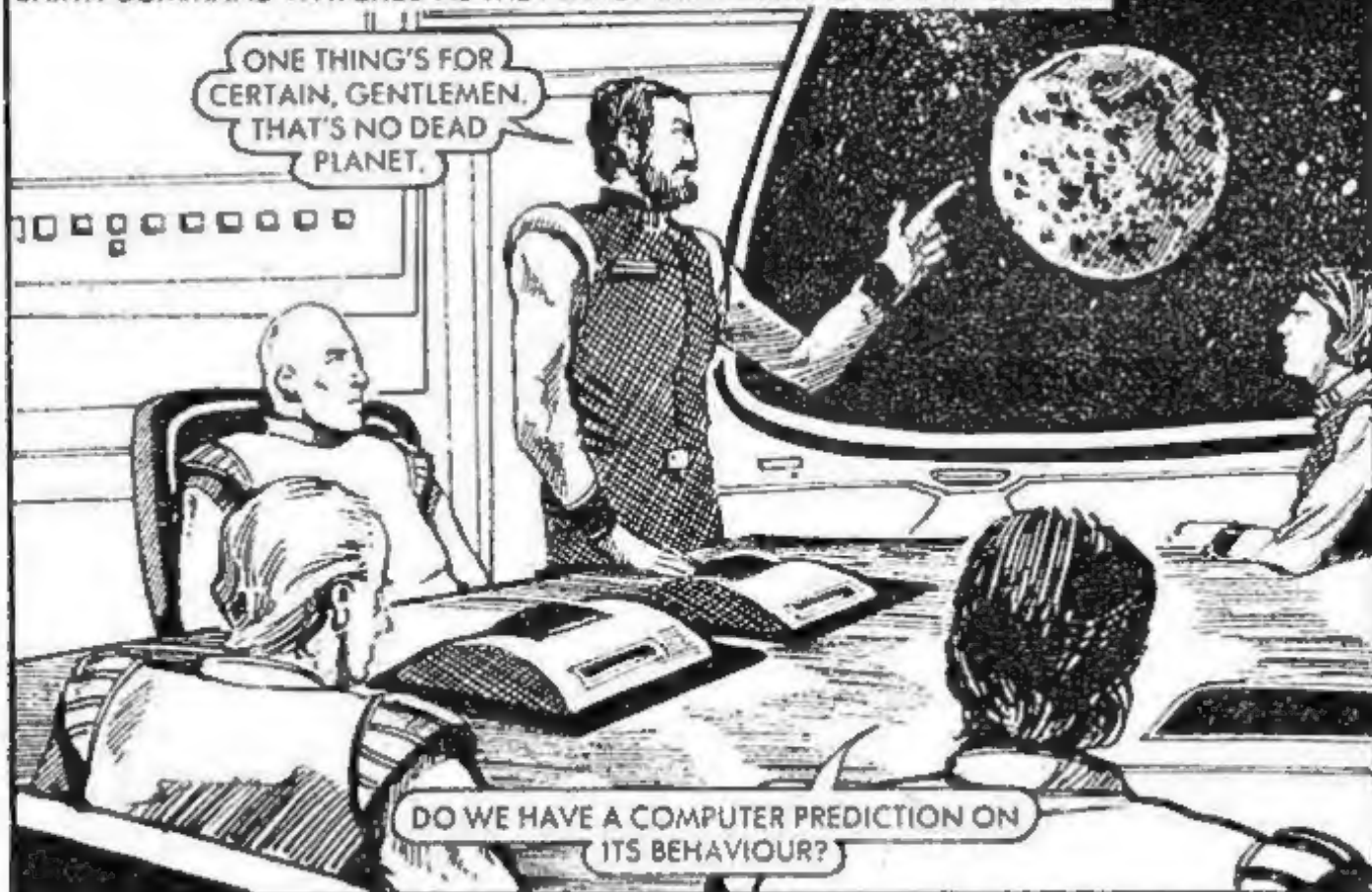
WHAT HAPPENED, ASTROLAB?

WE'RE CHECKING, SIR. AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL THERE WAS SOME FORM OF ENERGY BLAST FROM THE PLANET... THE SCOUTER'S GONE FROM OUR SENSORS!



EARTH COMMAND WATCHED AS THE PLANET GRADUALLY CHANGED COURSE.

ONE THING'S FOR CERTAIN, GENTLEMEN. THAT'S NO DEAD PLANET.



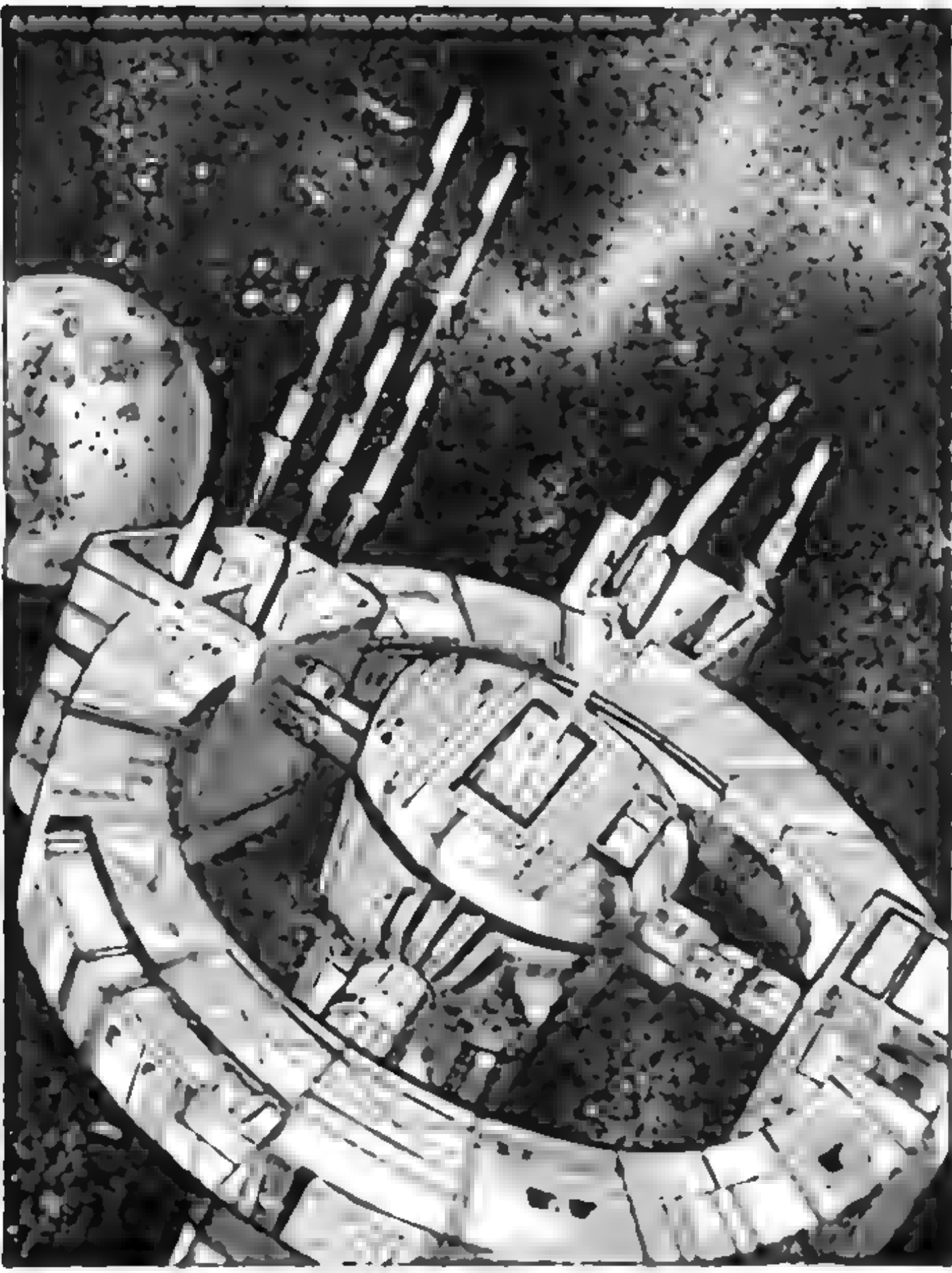
DO WE HAVE A COMPUTER PREDICTION ON ITS BEHAVIOUR?

IT HAS STABILISED ON A COLLISION COURSE WITH EARTH. IN THREE WEEKS IT WILL ARRIVE!

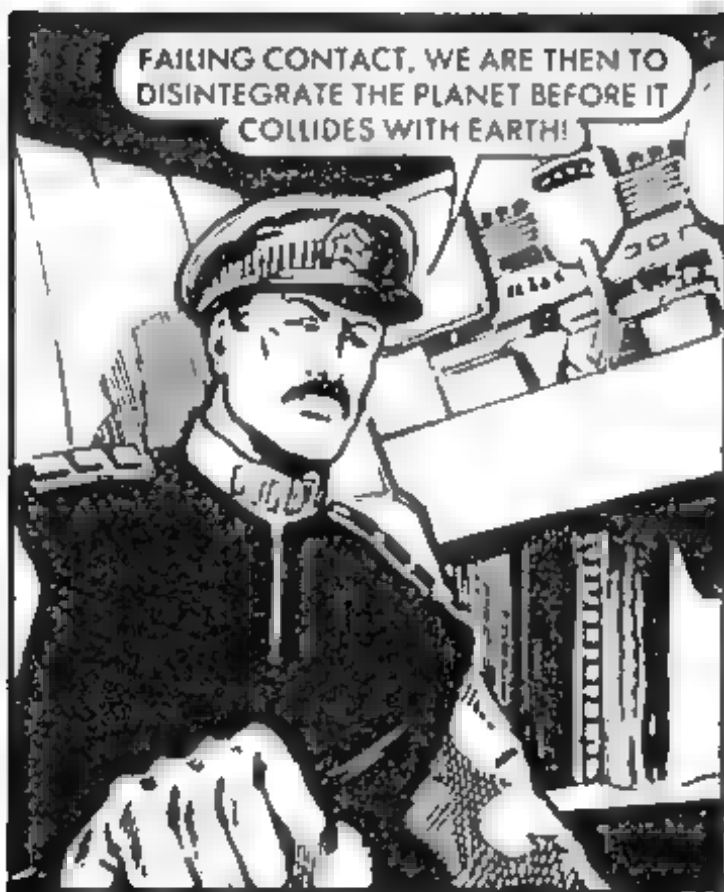
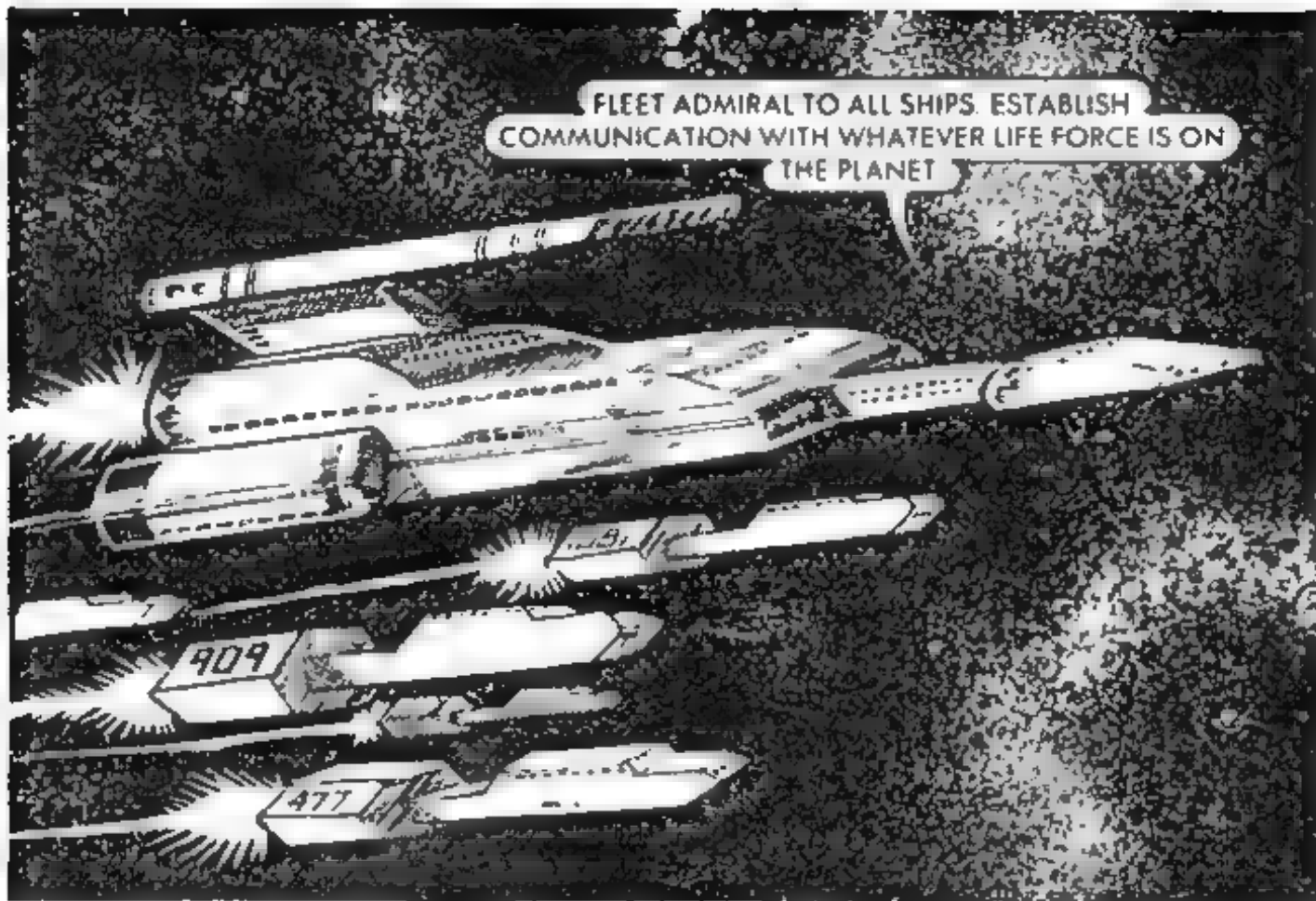


WE MUST LAUNCH THE BATTLE FLEET TO INTERCEPT.





A SENSUAL FANTASIA MISTICA COM FELICIA ANO CINQUENTA E SEIS DE LINDA



THE TWO CRUISERS DROPPED LOW AND BEGAN A SLOW SWEEP OVER THE FROZEN SURFACE.

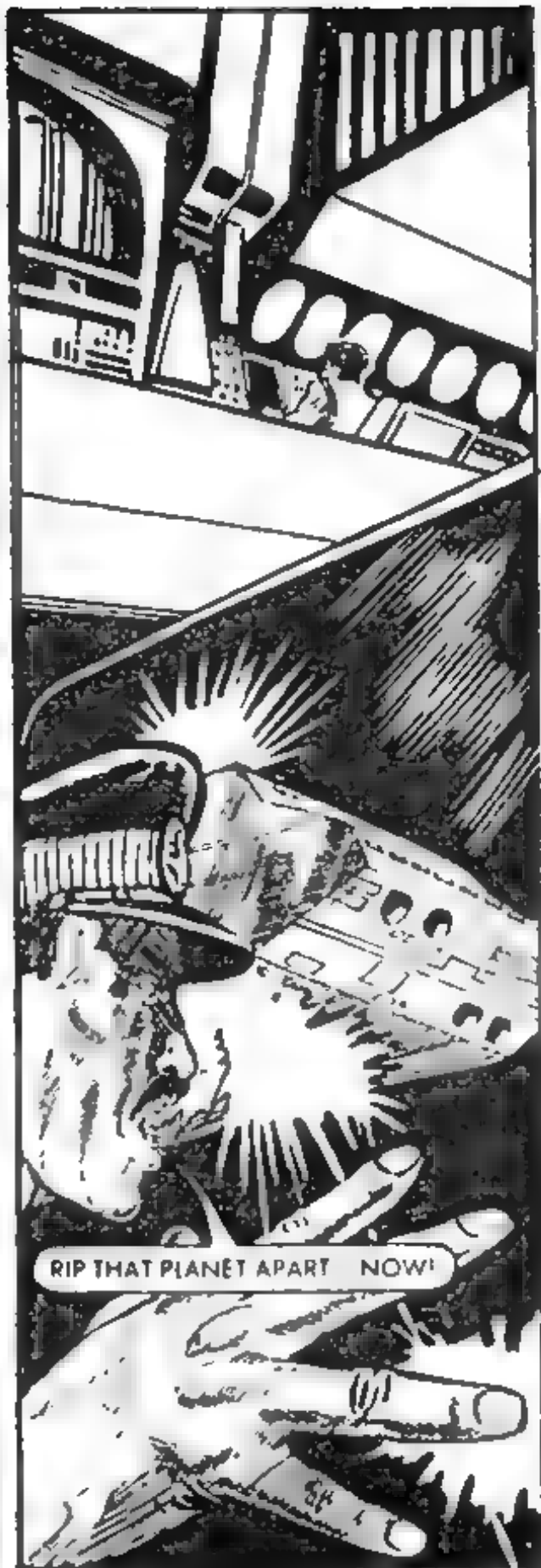
WE'RE GETTING A FAINT READING FROM
UP AHEAD. DO YOU COPY?

YES, SOME SORT OF SUB-SURFACE
ACTIVITY. LET'S GO AND SEE

ONCE AGAIN DEATH WHILE DEATH LICKED SKYWARDS, ATOMISING THE SHIPS AND CREW.

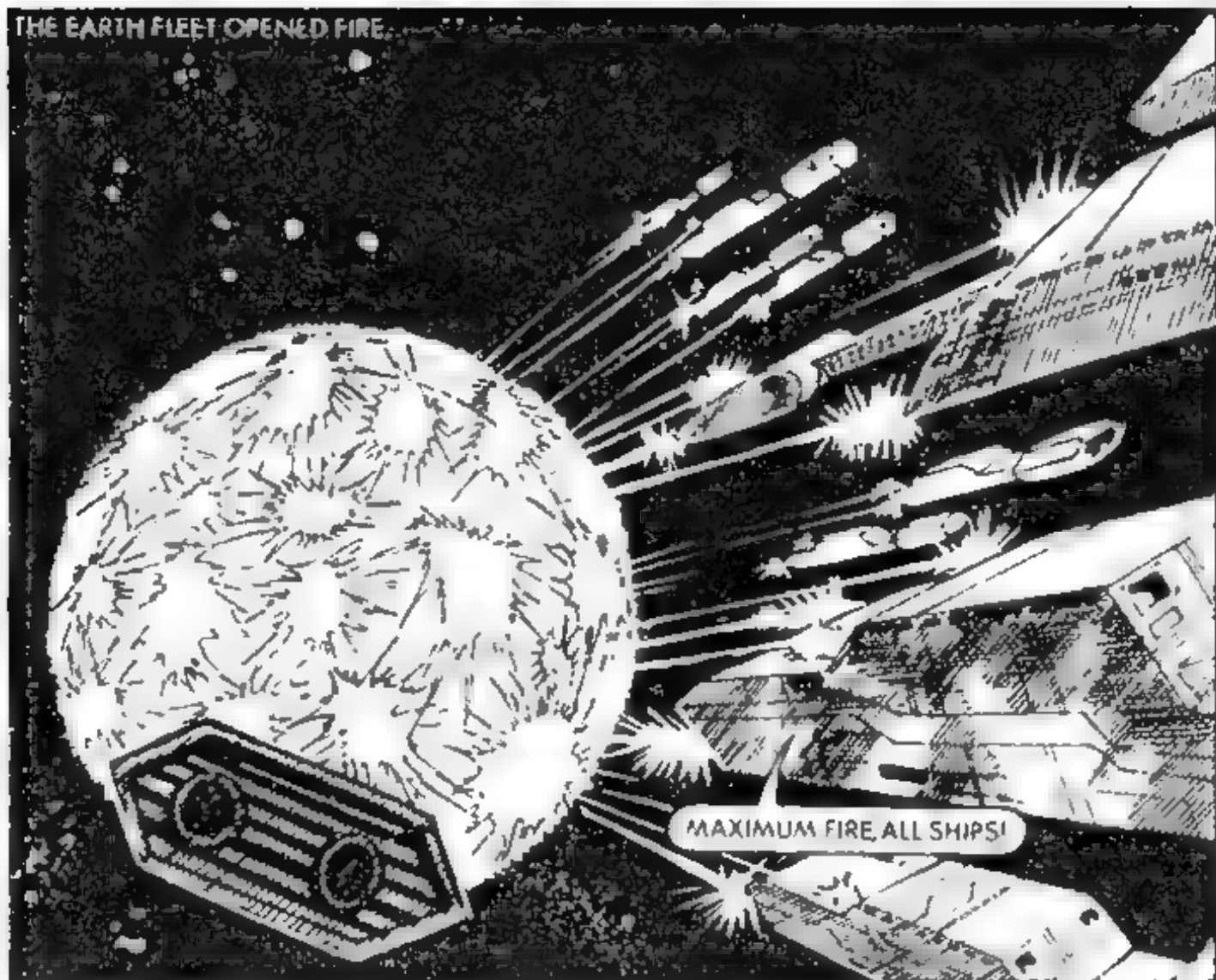
IT'S A TRAP!

A MASS OF BEAMS REACHED INTO SPACE AND
THE WAITING FLEET.



RIP THAT PLANET APART NOW!

THE EARTH FLEET OPENED FIRE.



SENSORS SCANNED AND PROBED THE ENERGY COCOON EVALUATING ITS STRENGTH

THE ANSWER'S NEGATIVE, SIR, WE'VE NOTHING
THAT CAN BREAK IT

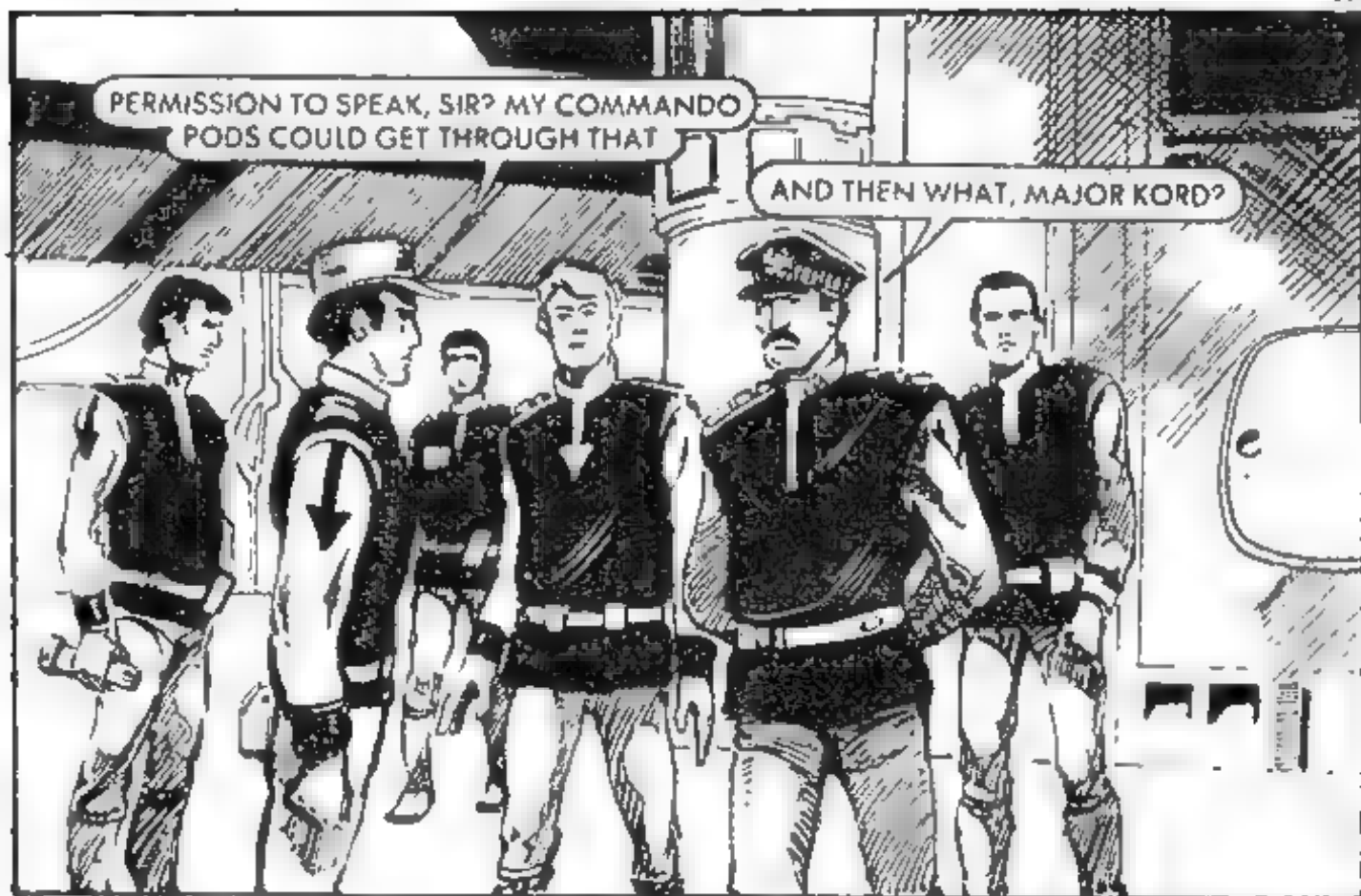
WHAT IF WE BROUGHT THE TOTAL FIREPOWER OF
THE FLEET TO BEAR ON THE SAME SPOT?



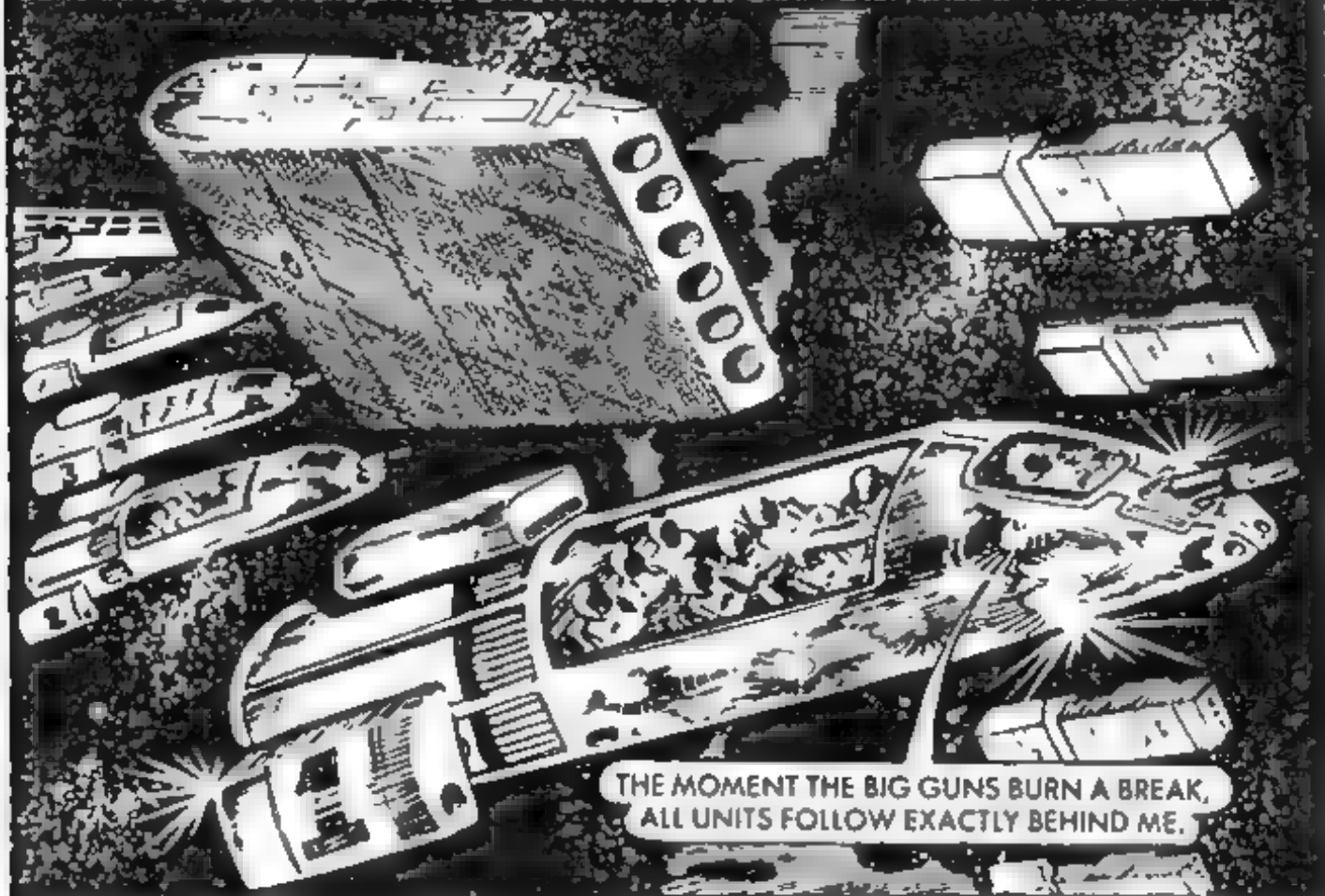
IT WOULD MAKE A FIVE METRE HOLE
FOR ONLY TEN SECONDS!

TOO SMALL FOR ANY SHIP TO GET
THROUGH

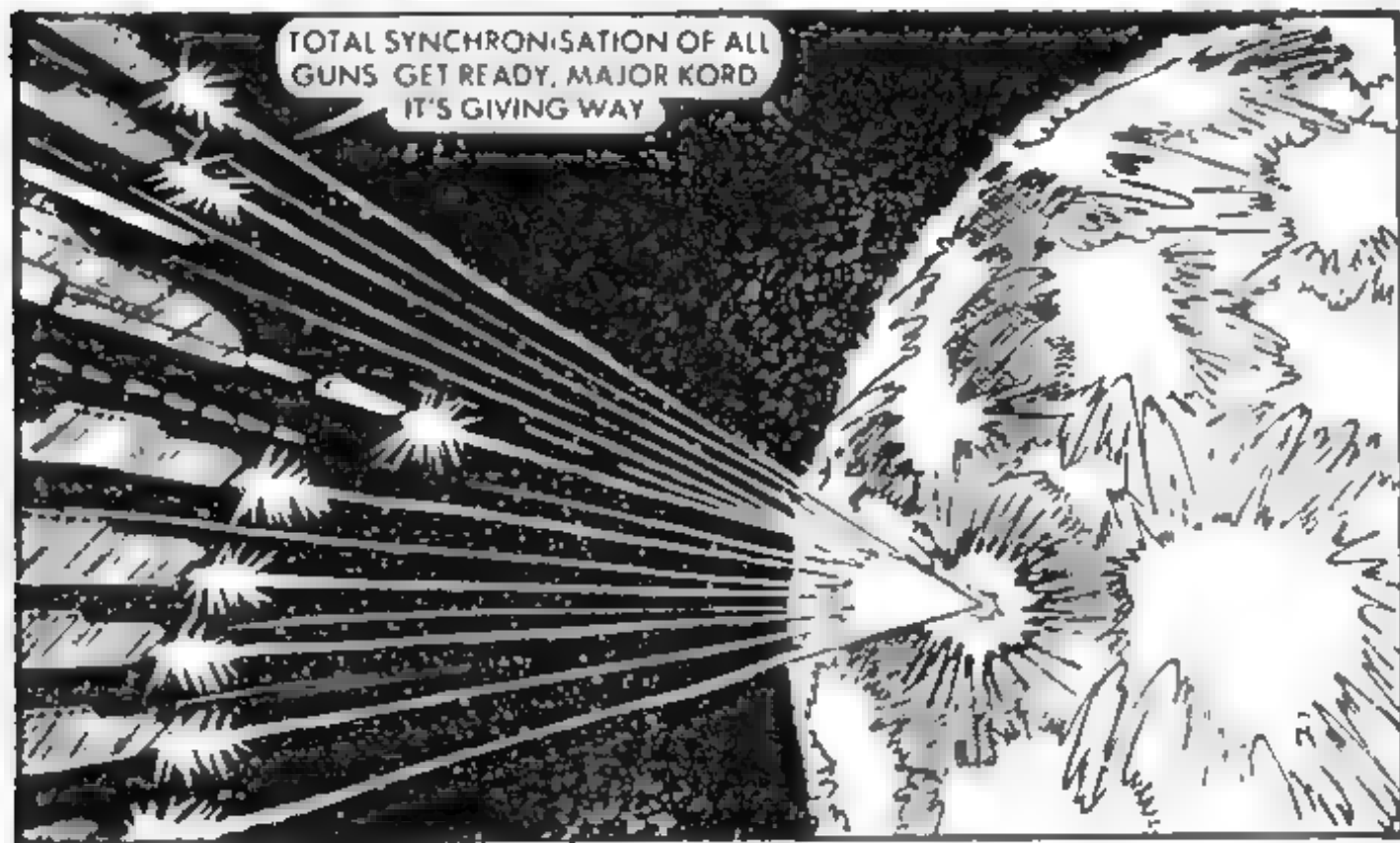




COMMANDO PODS WERE SMALL PLANETARY ASSAULT CRAFT LAUNCHED IN ATMOSPHERE.

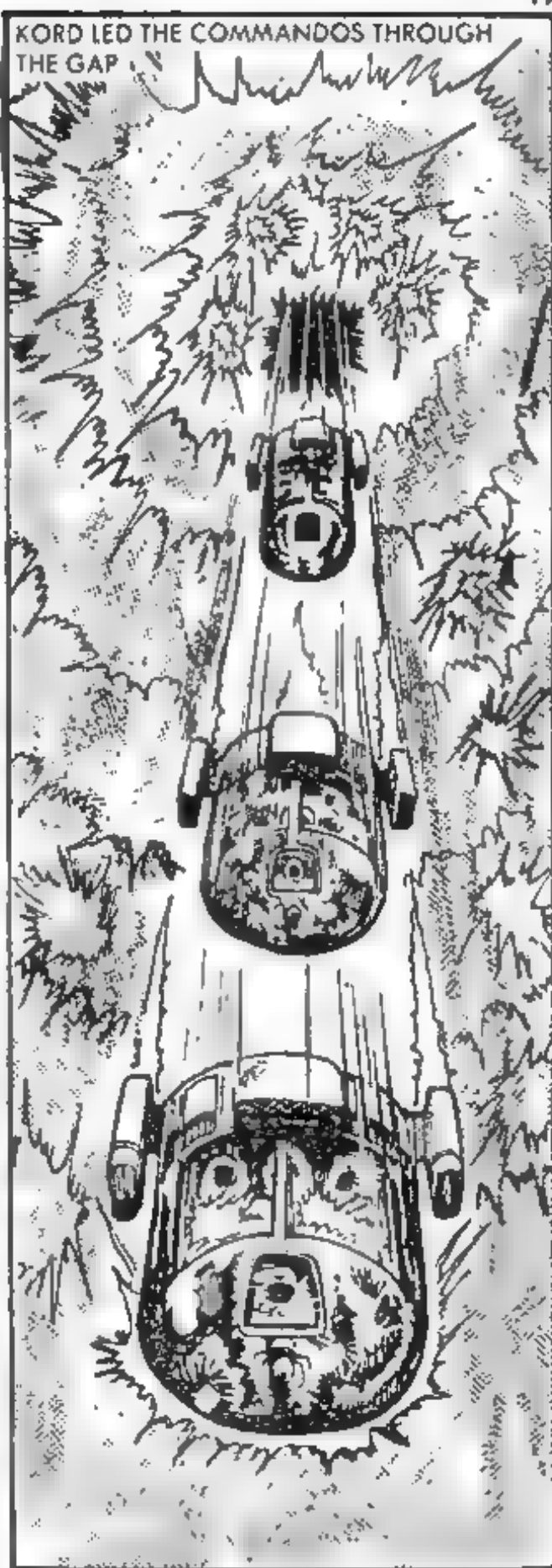


TOTAL SYNCHRONISATION OF ALL GUNS GET READY, MAJOR KORD IT'S GIVING WAY

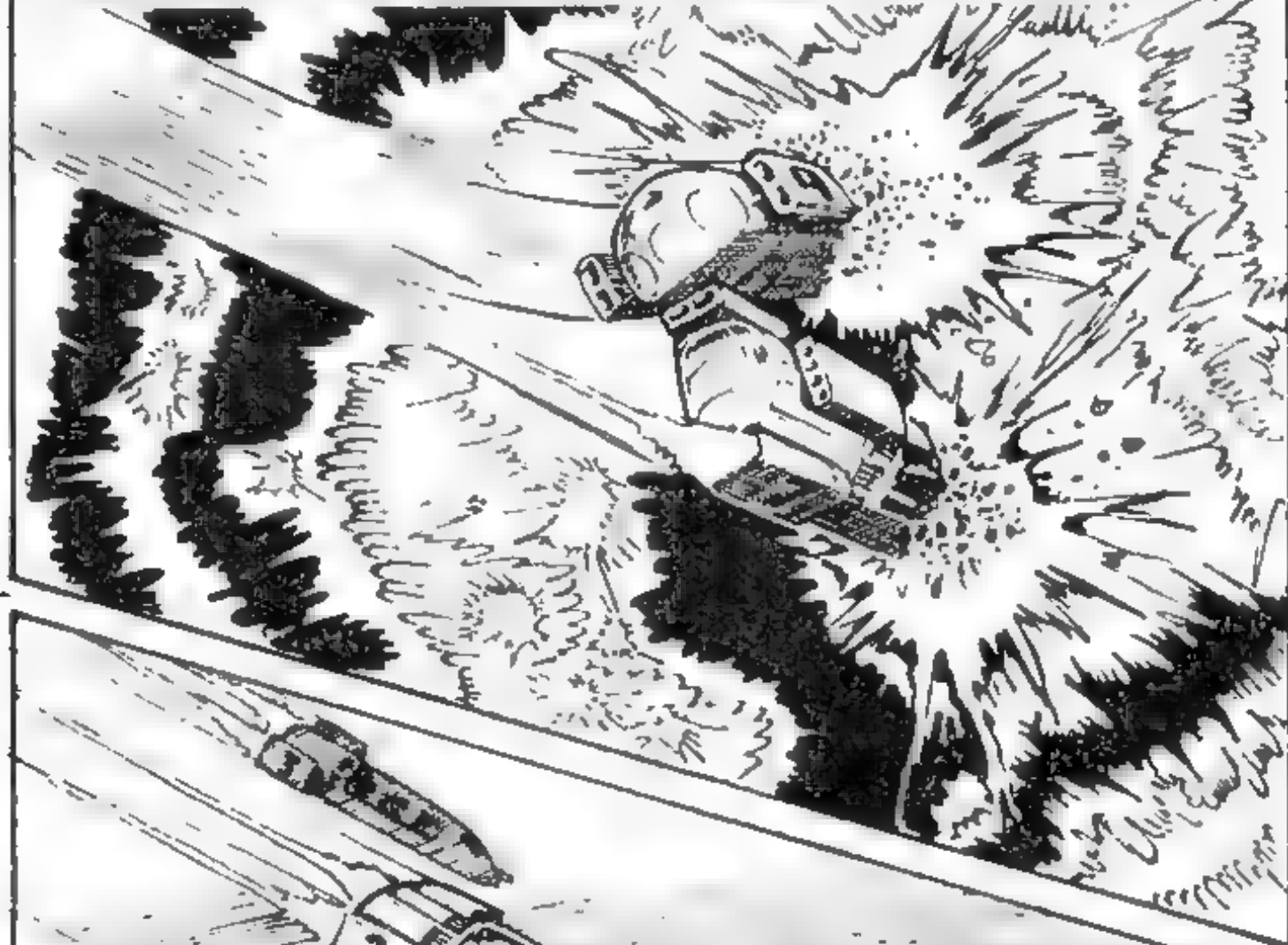




KORD LED THE COMMANDOS THROUGH THE GAP



BUT ONLY THREE PODS HAD PASSED THROUGH WHEN THE ENERGY COCOON RESEALED



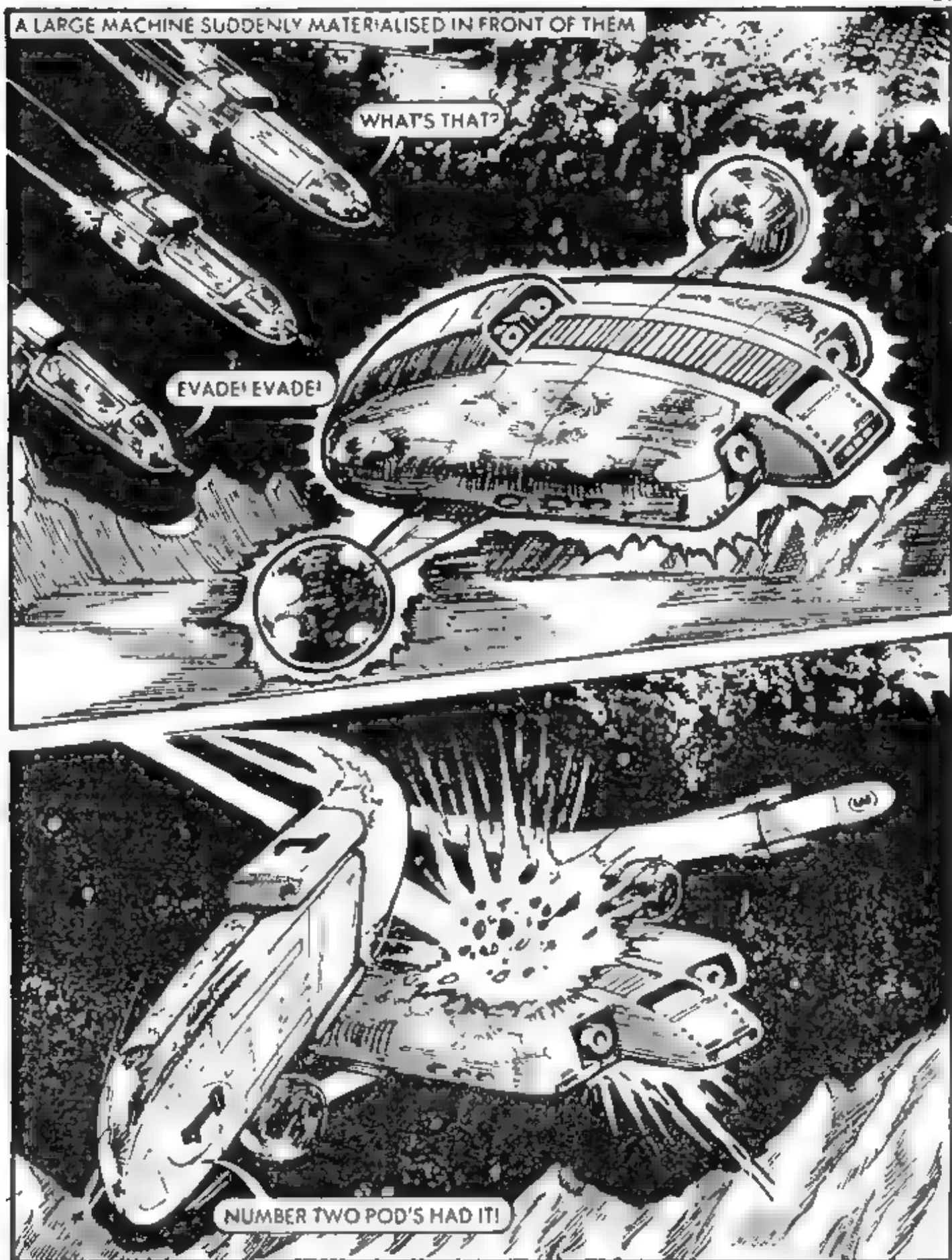
MAKE FOR THE LAND, ALL PODS WE'RE ON OUR OWN!

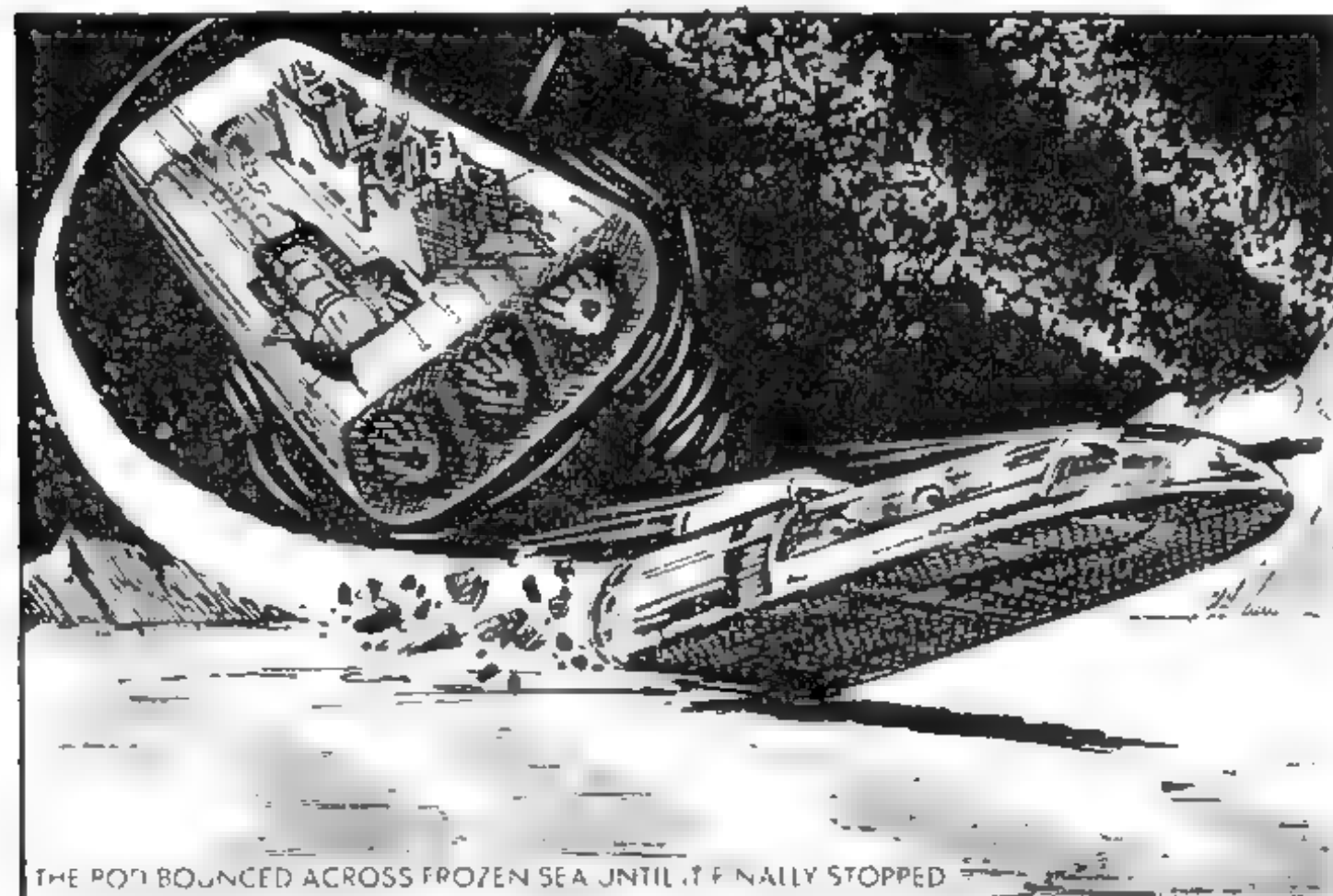
A LARGE MACHINE SUDDENLY MATERIALISED IN FRONT OF THEM

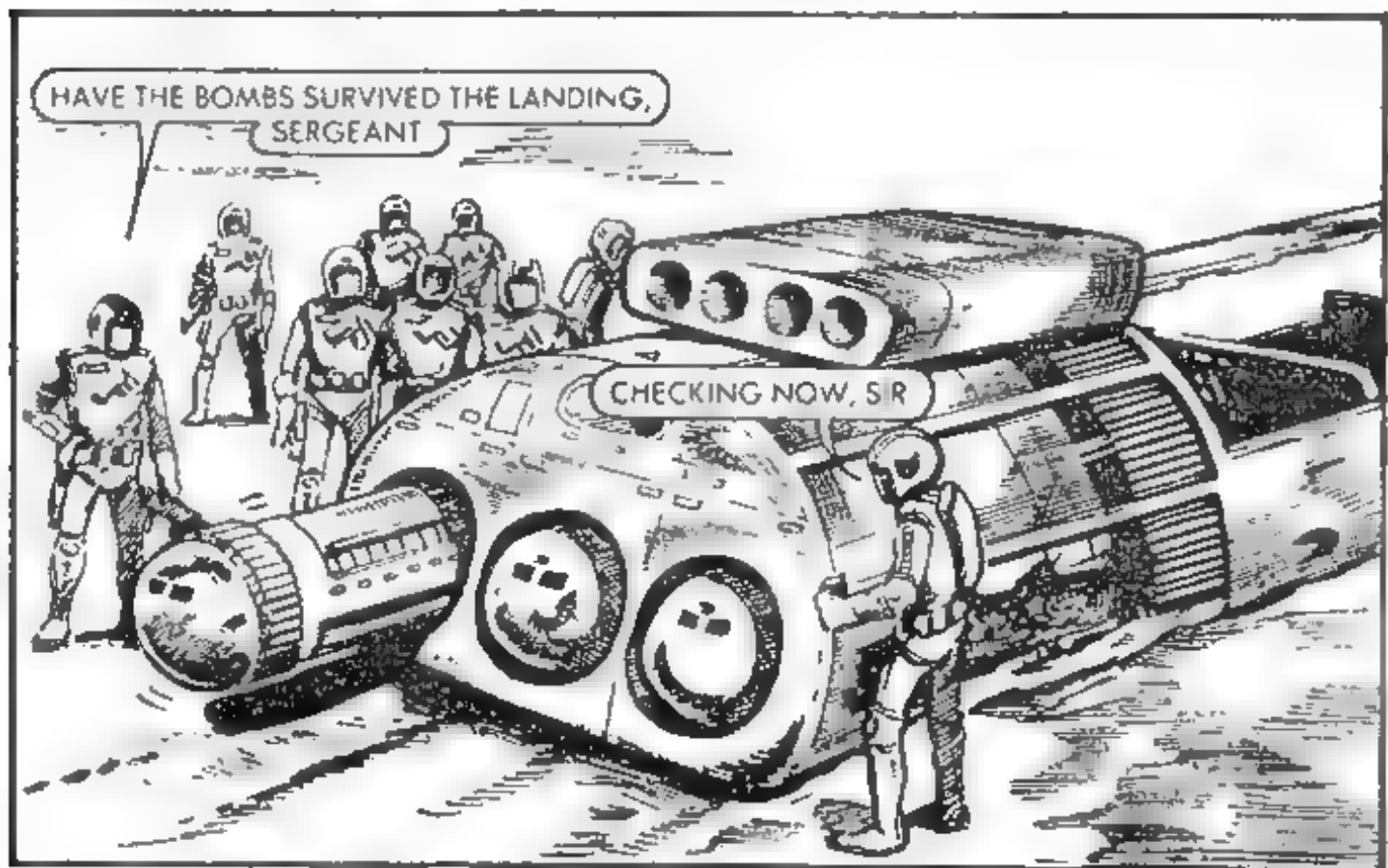
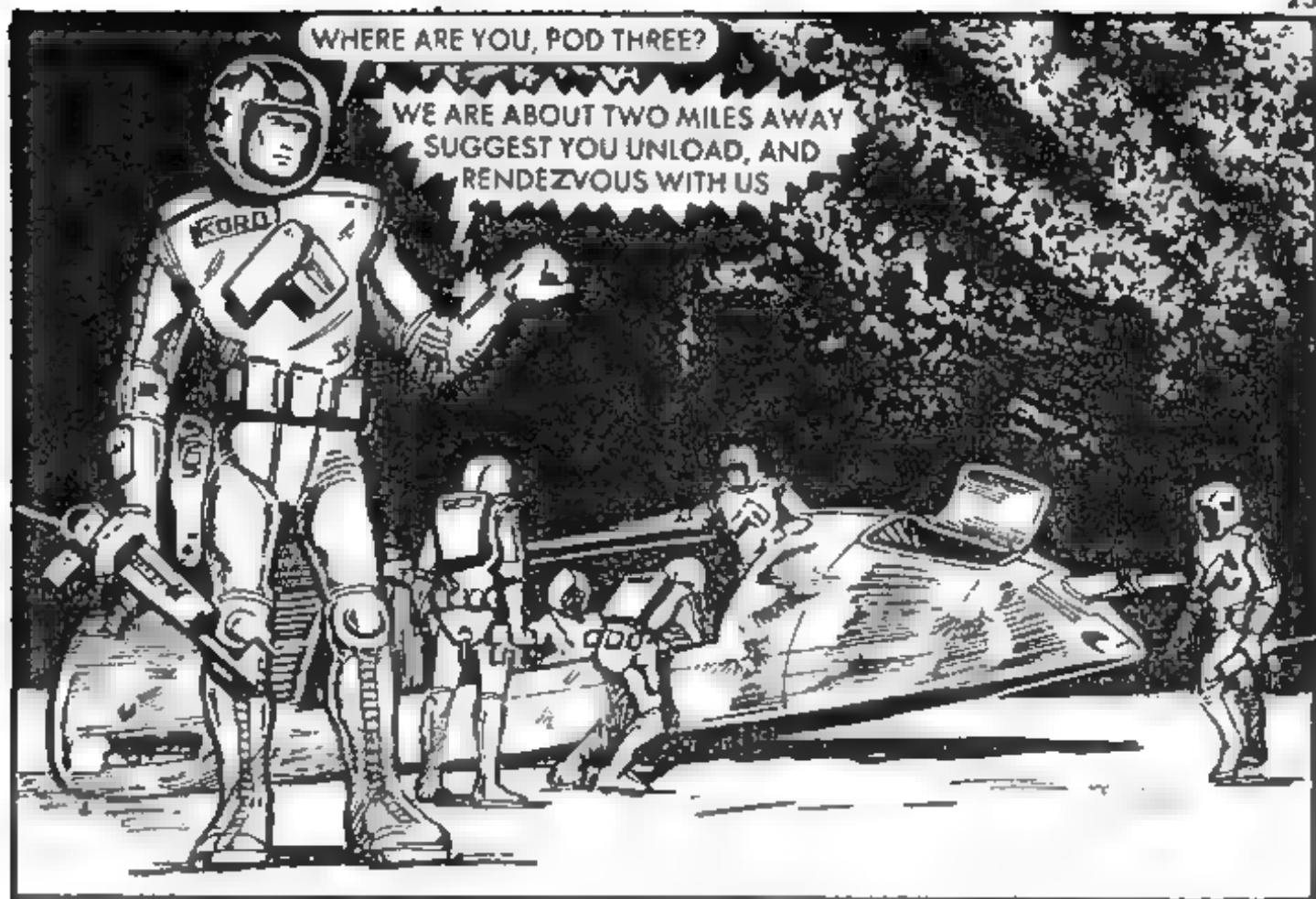
WHAT'S THAT?

EVADE! EVADE!

NUMBER TWO POD'S HAD IT!







MOLE BOMBS WERE IMMENSELY POWERFUL EXPLOSIVE DEVICES. THEY COULD TALK. THEY WERE SELF-PROPELLED AND COULD VAPORISE THEIR WAY THROUGH ALMOST ANYTHING AT HIGH SPEED.

STATUS CHECK ALL BOMBS

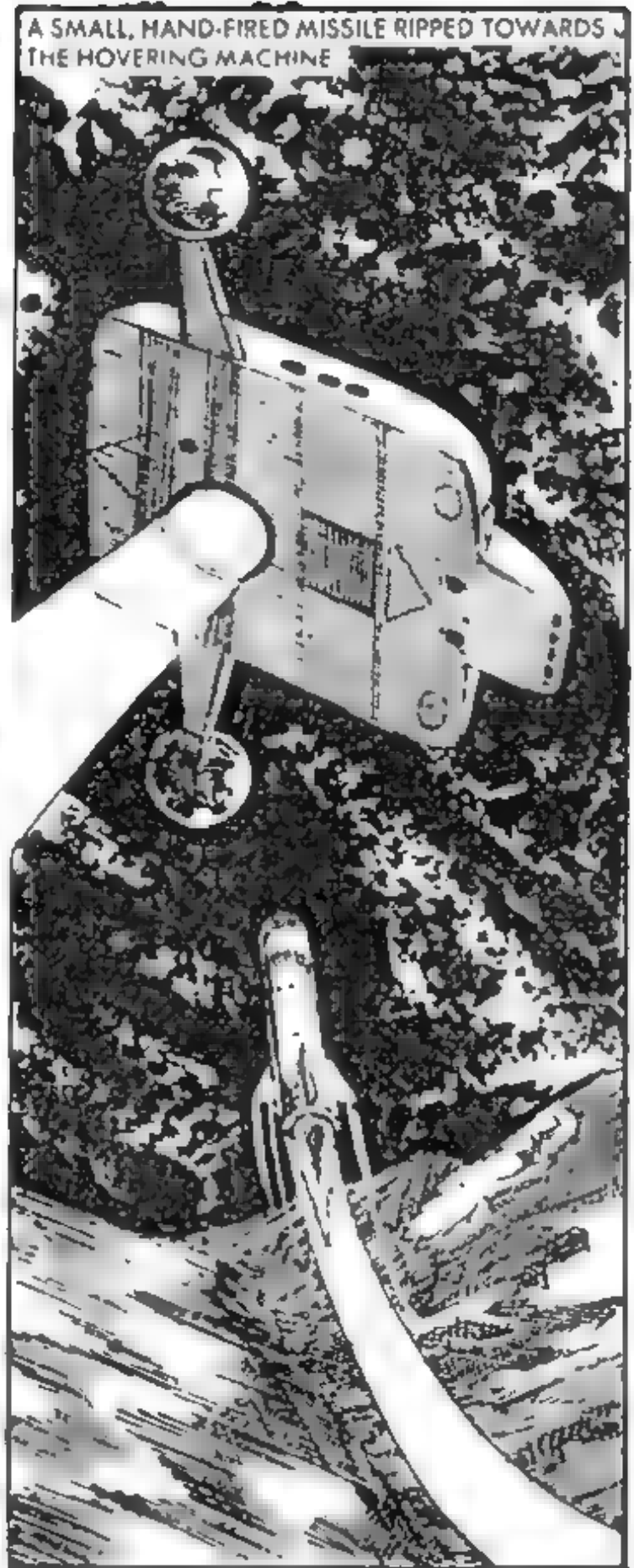
WE HAVE 100% EFFICIENCY

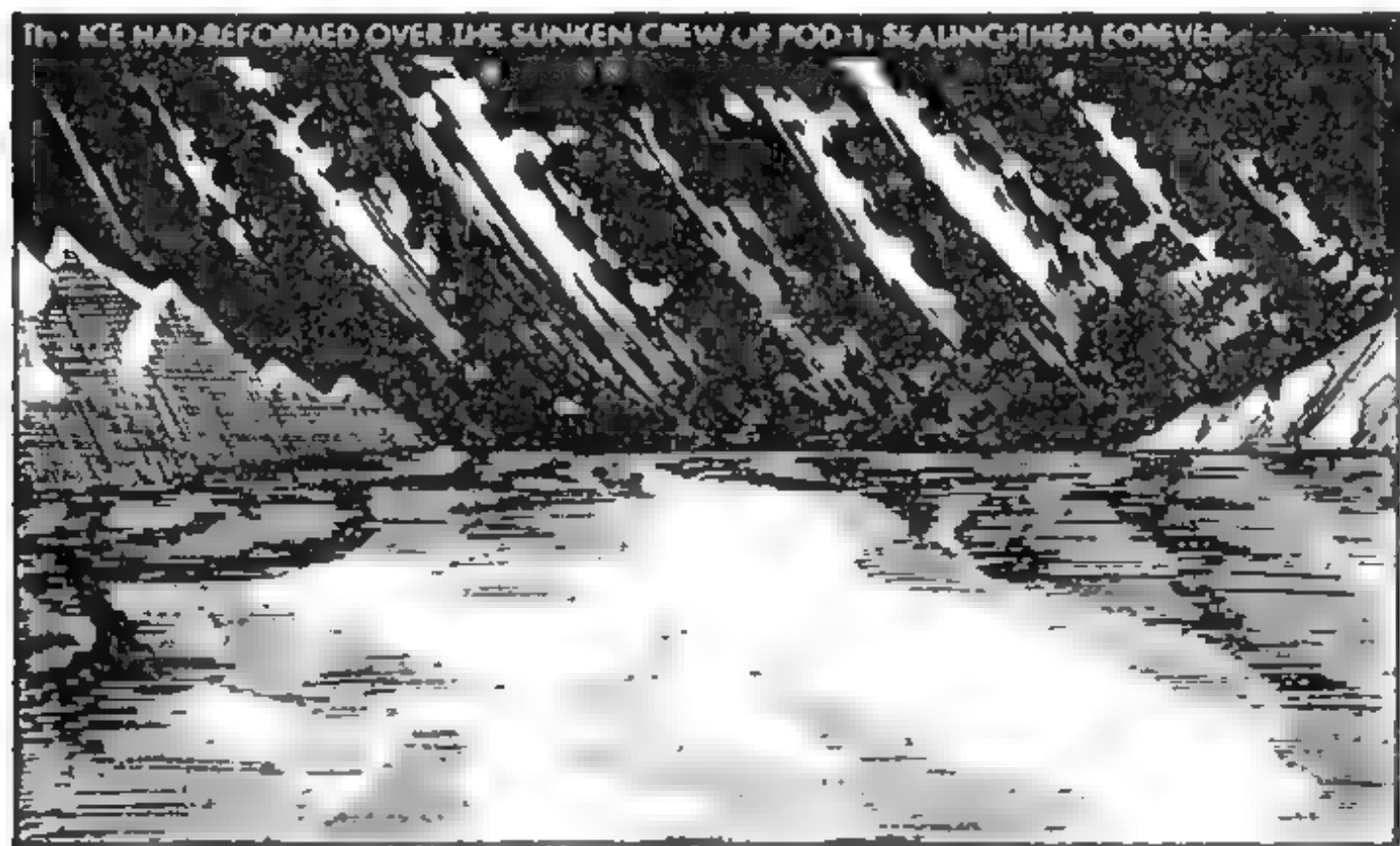
BEFORE THEY COULD MOVE A CONE OF LIGHT BLAZED DOWN FROM THE SKY

SOMEONE'S FOUND US!

IT'S AN ENERGY BARRIER!
TRY AND BLAST THROUGH IT!







ANOTHER FLYER APPEARED.

GET OUT OF THIS BEAM.

WE CAN'T THE ROCKS ARE MELTING!
O'R GUNS

THERE WAS NO ONE TO HELP THEM

THE MACHINE CROSSED LOW POINT OF THE GATE



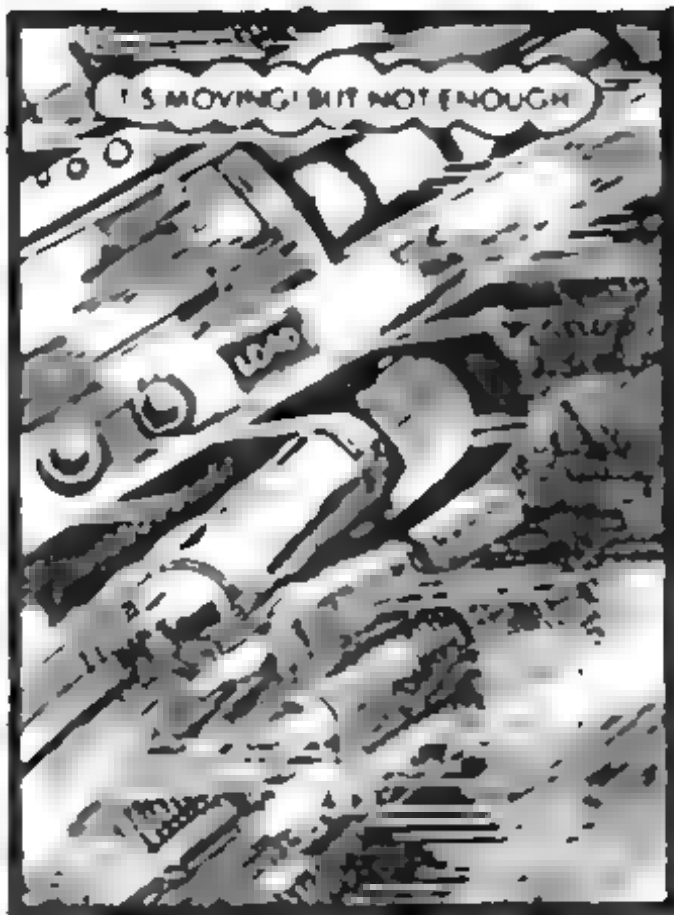
HOWEVER BENEATH THE KEEL WERE NOT A DO KUN, LAY NEAR TO THE SEA FLOOR
AND IN HIS HAND WAS AN ASSAULT RIFLE



THE RIFLE'S COCKED. IF I CAN
LOOSEN MY FINGER IN MY GLOVE—
I MIGHT CREATE ENOUGH SPACE TO
PULL THE TRIGGER.



IT'S MOVING! BUT NOT ENOUGH.

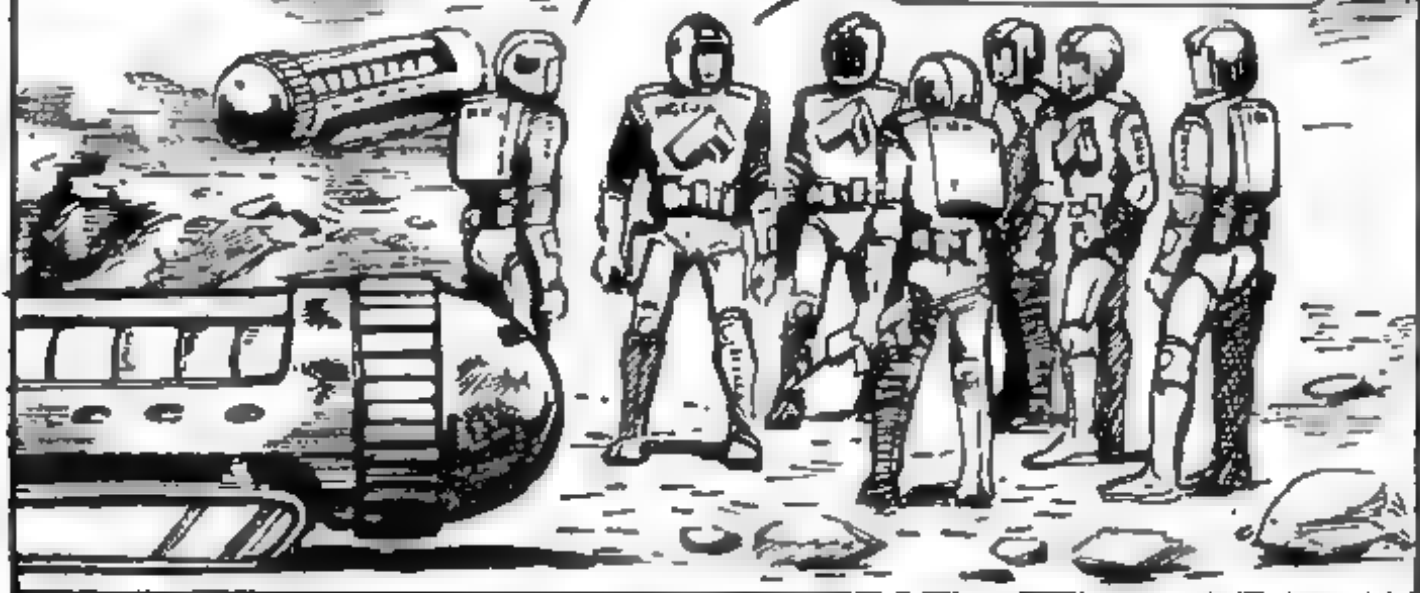




AN HOUR LATER SEVEN SURVIVORS AND TWO MOLES STOOD FREE UPON THE ICE

WE'RE ALL THAT'S LEFT OF COMMANDO
FORCE WE'VE TWO MOLES AND NO
REINFORCEMENTS

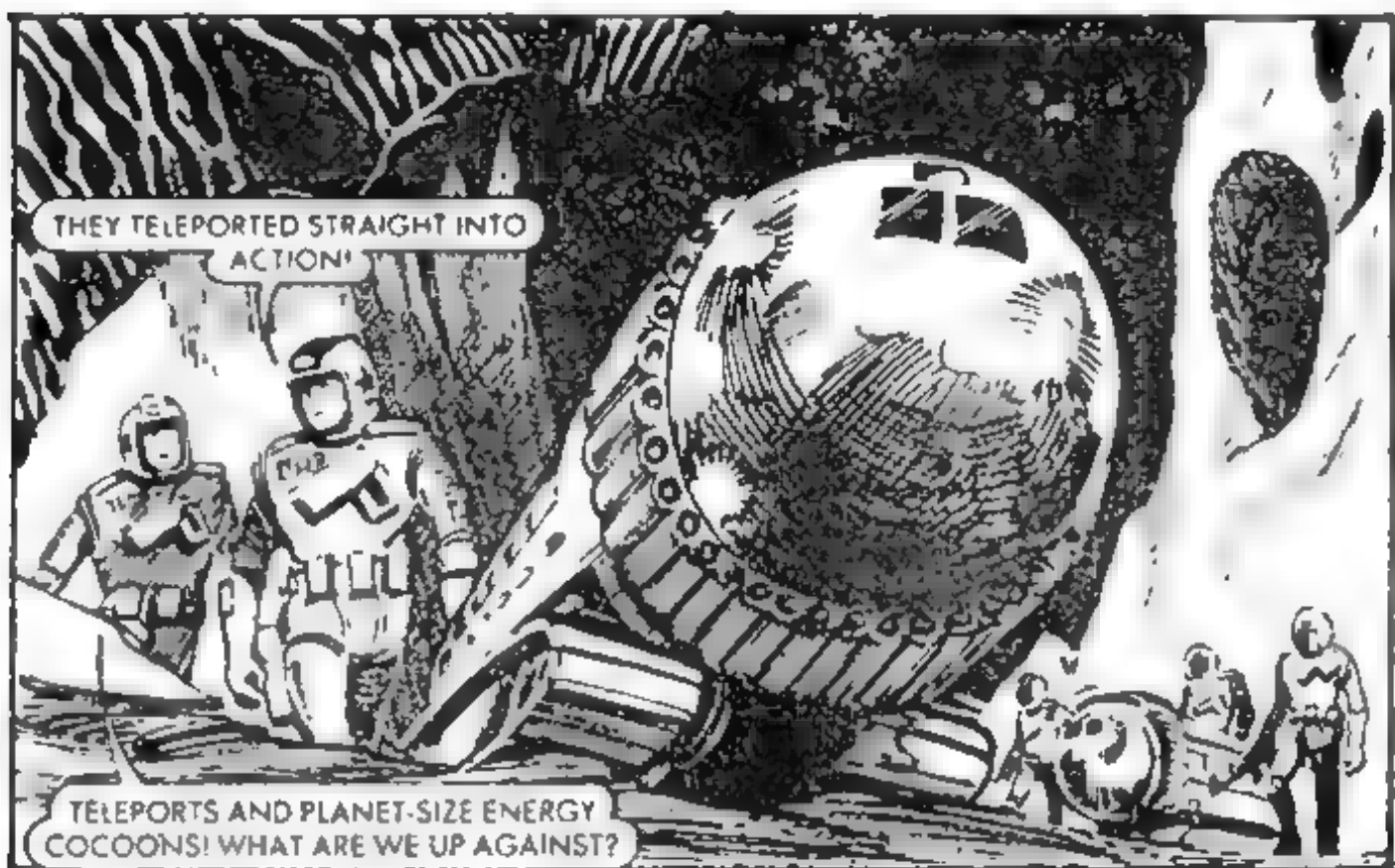
WE'VE GOT TO DESTROY THIS ROCK
BEFORE IT SMASHES EARTH.

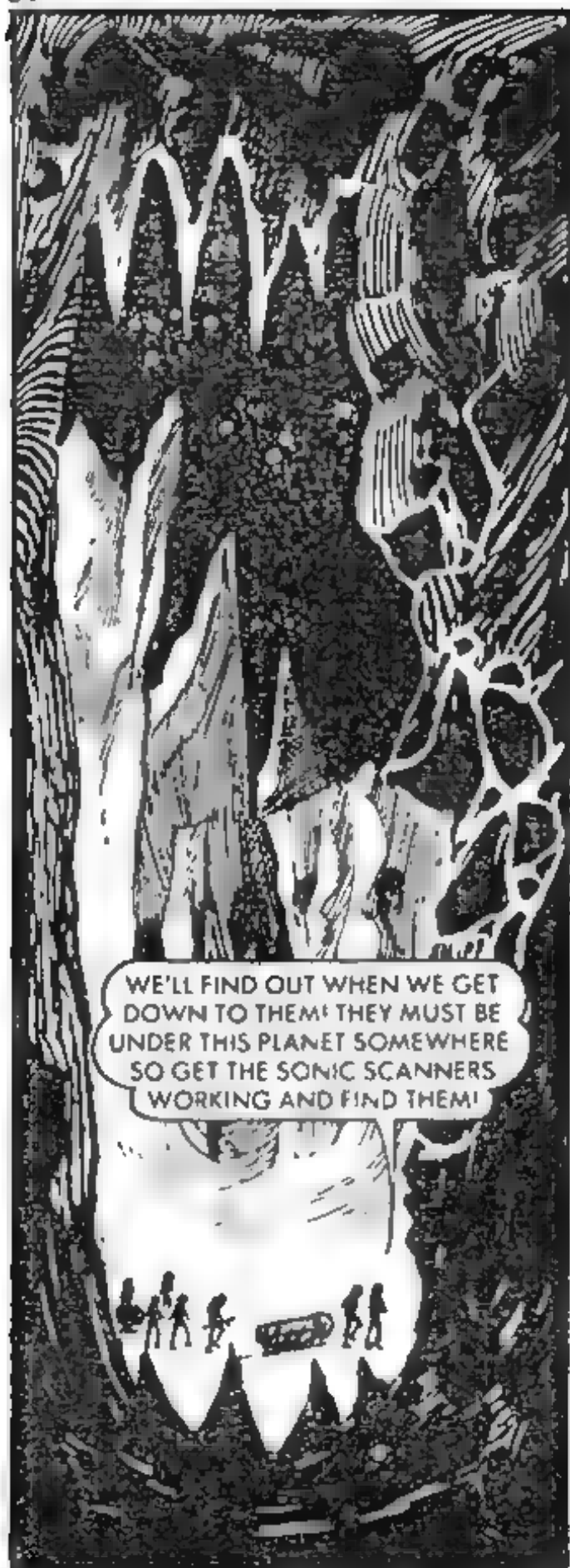


HOW SIR? TWO MOLES AREN'T
ENOUGH TO DO IT



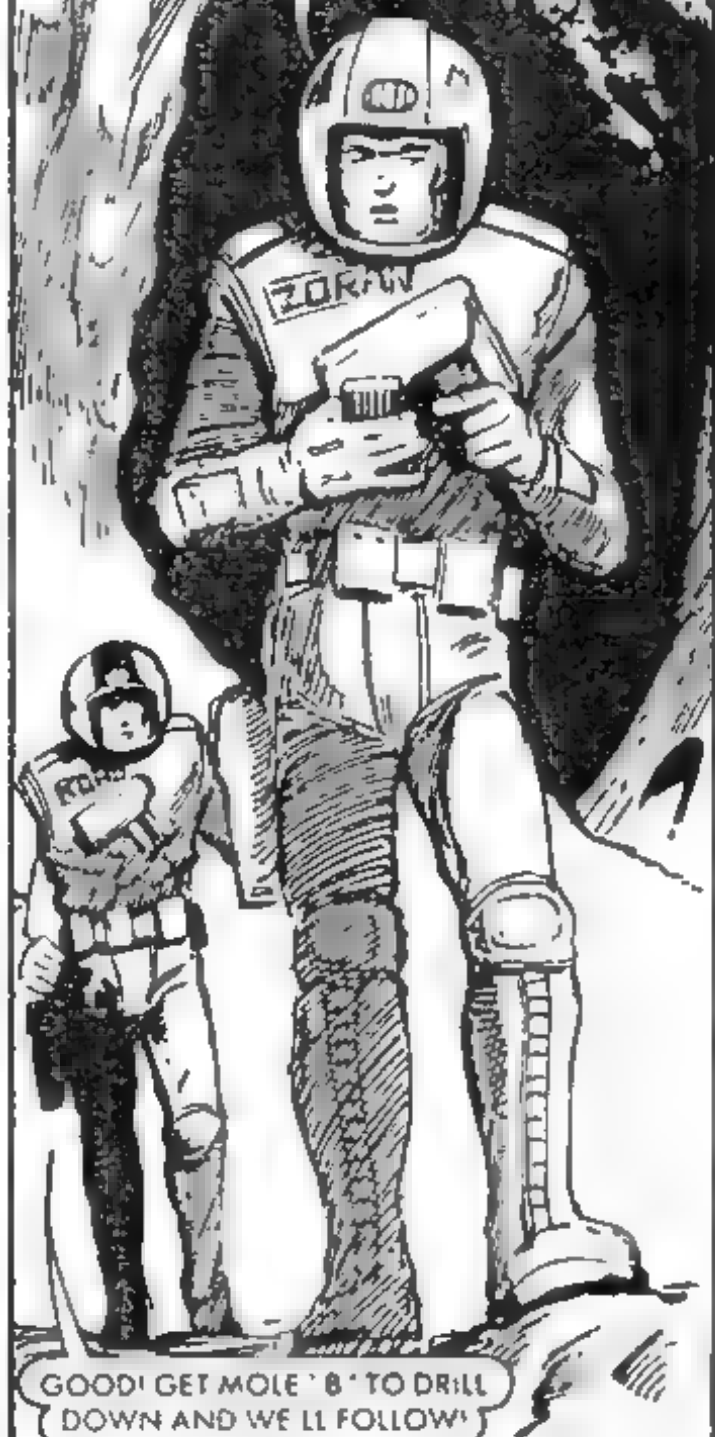
THERE'S A WAY! LET'S GET OFF THIS ICE
FIRST WE'RE SITTING DUCKS IF
ANOTHER FLYER COMES

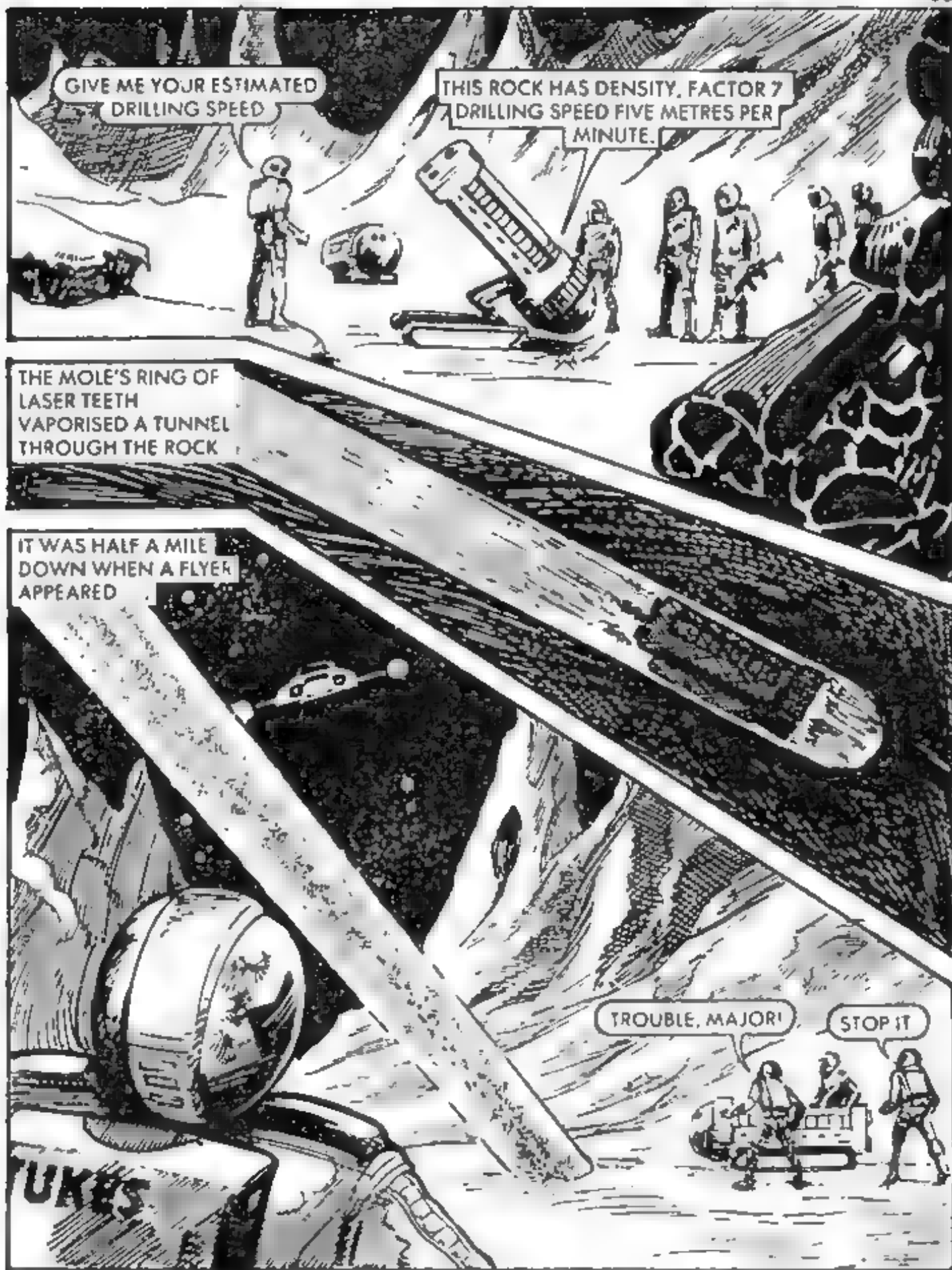




AS THEY WANDERED ACROSS THE BARREN SURFACE ...

I'VE GOT SOMETHING, MAJOR THERE'S A LARGE AIR SPACE AND A LIFE READING SOMEWHERE BELOW US!

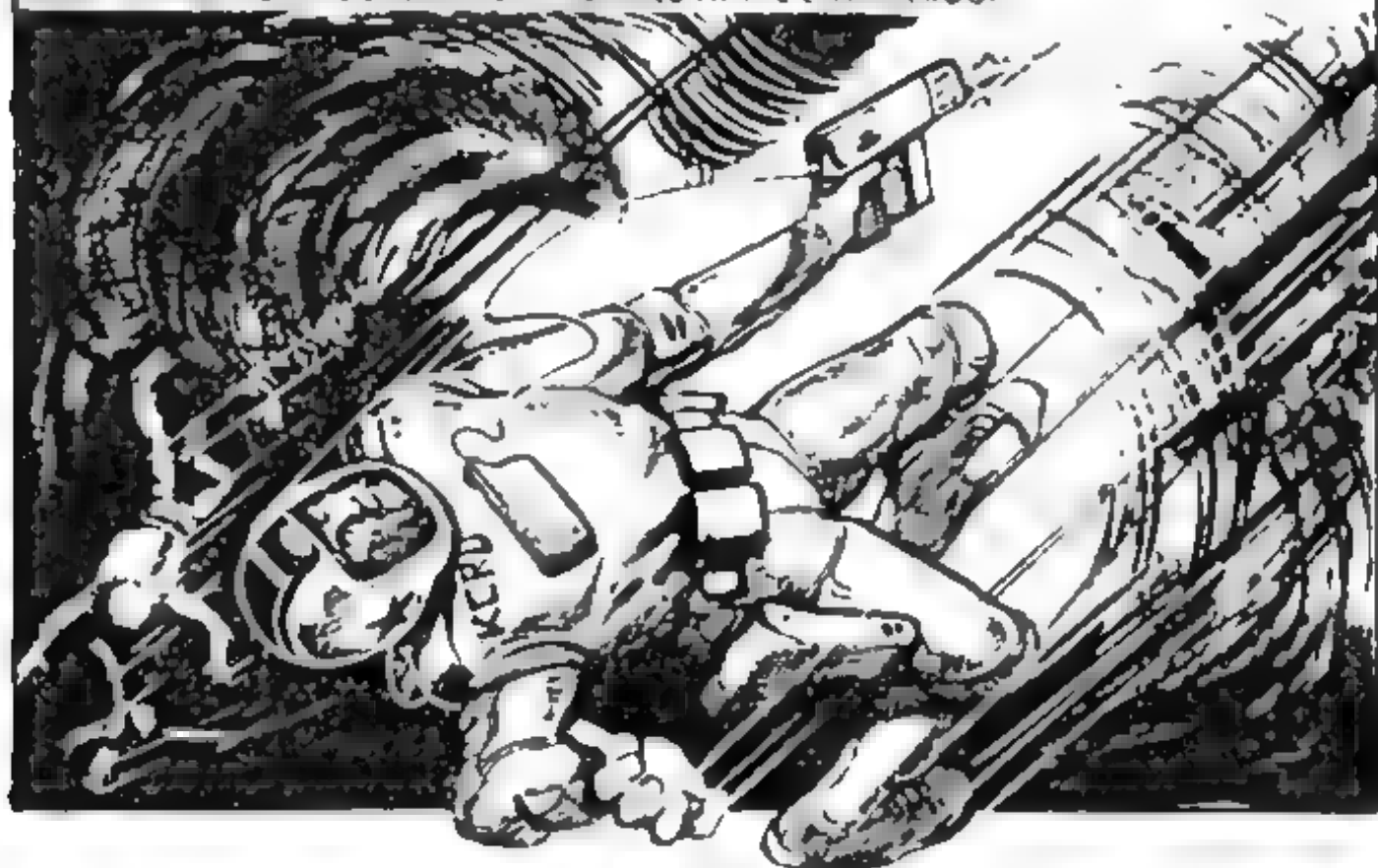




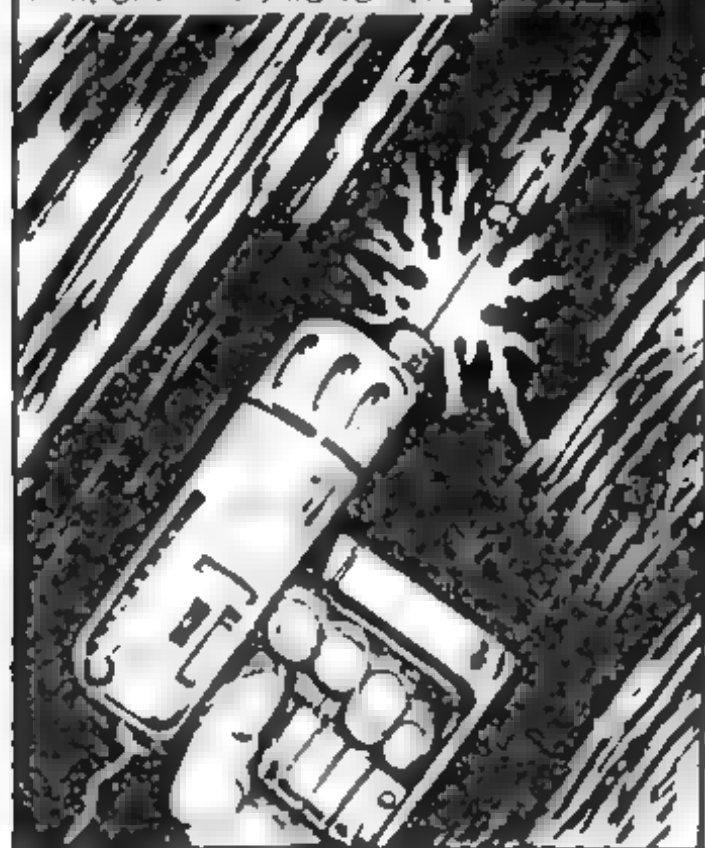




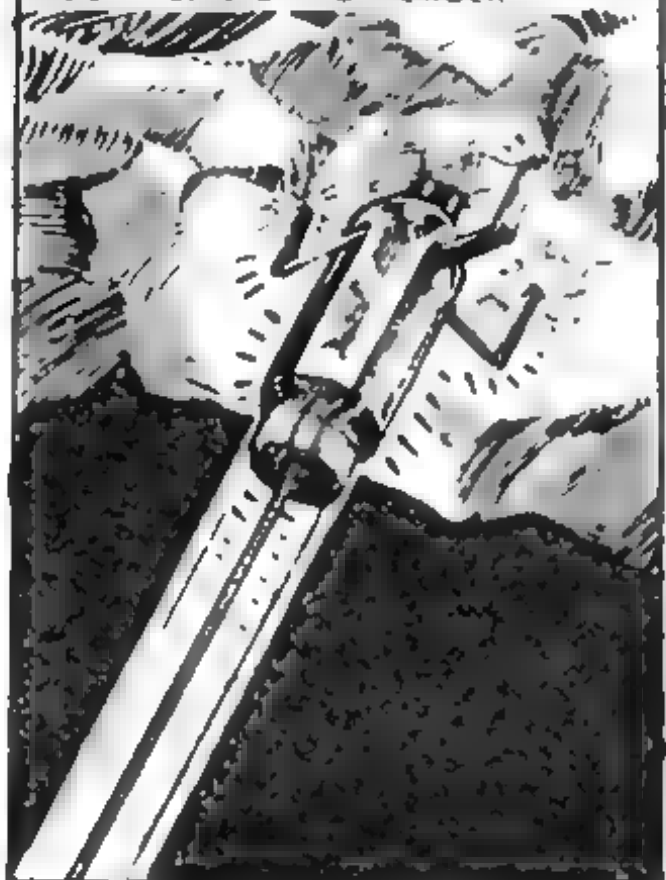
JOHN CLAWED FOR THE STOP-GUN AND FIRED AT THE CALVIN ROOF



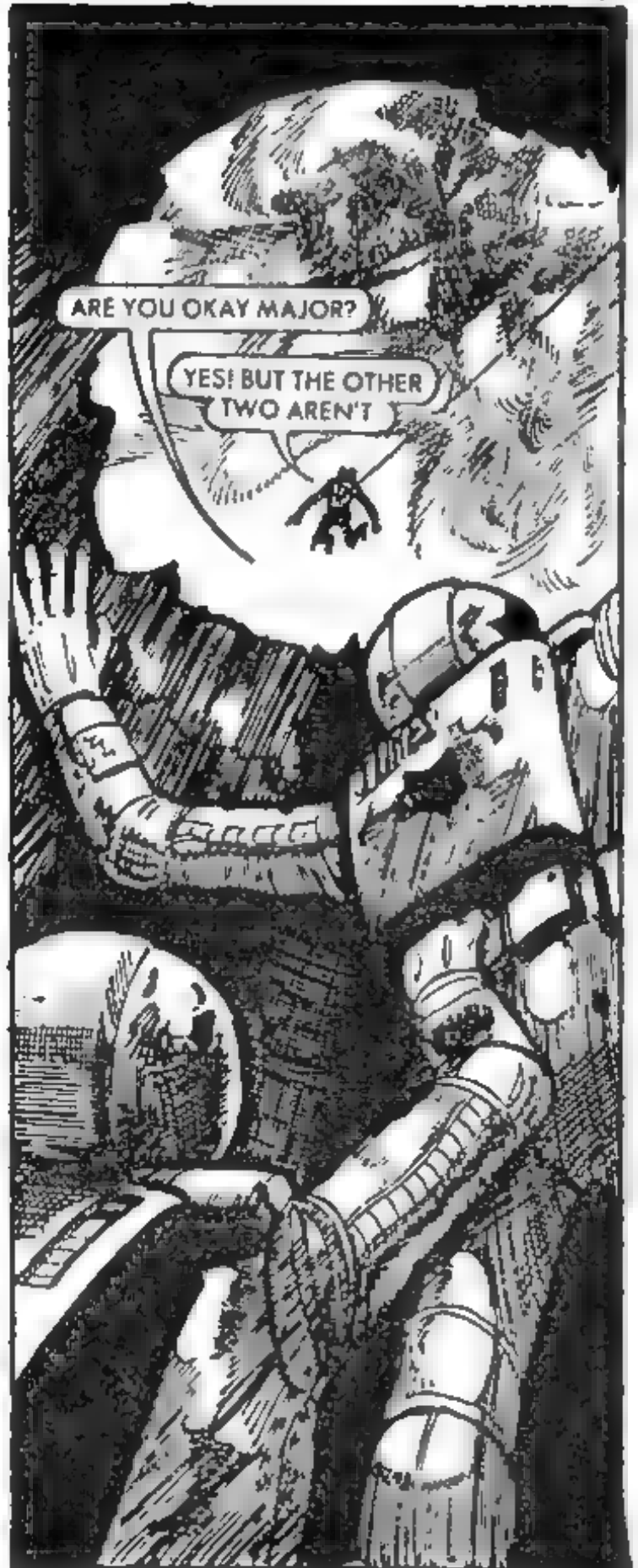
A DART SHOT FROM THE GUN SPINNING A TRAIL OF HYPER-STRONG FIBRE



THE DART BLITZED INTO THE ROCK

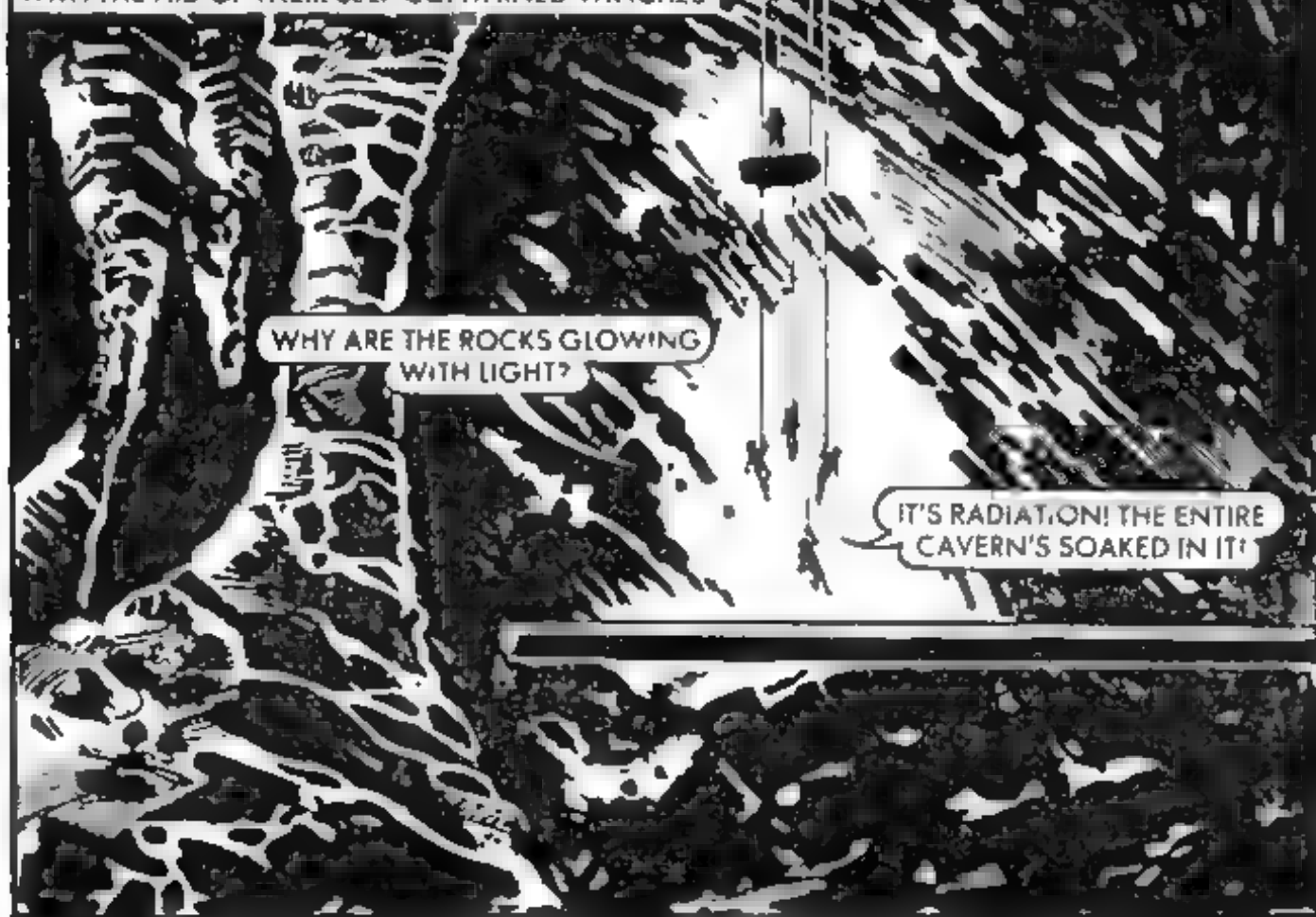


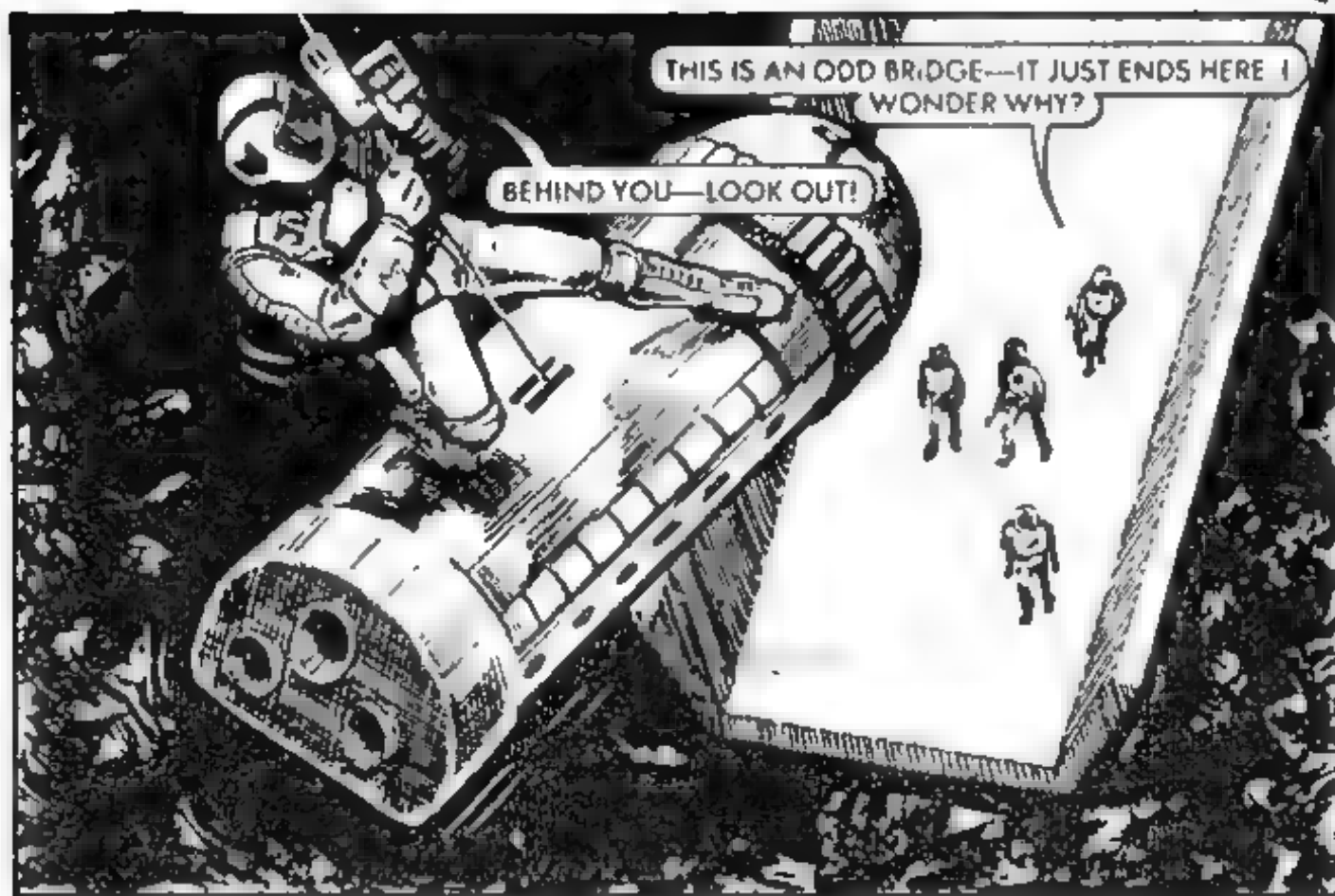
WITH A JERK KORD HALTED





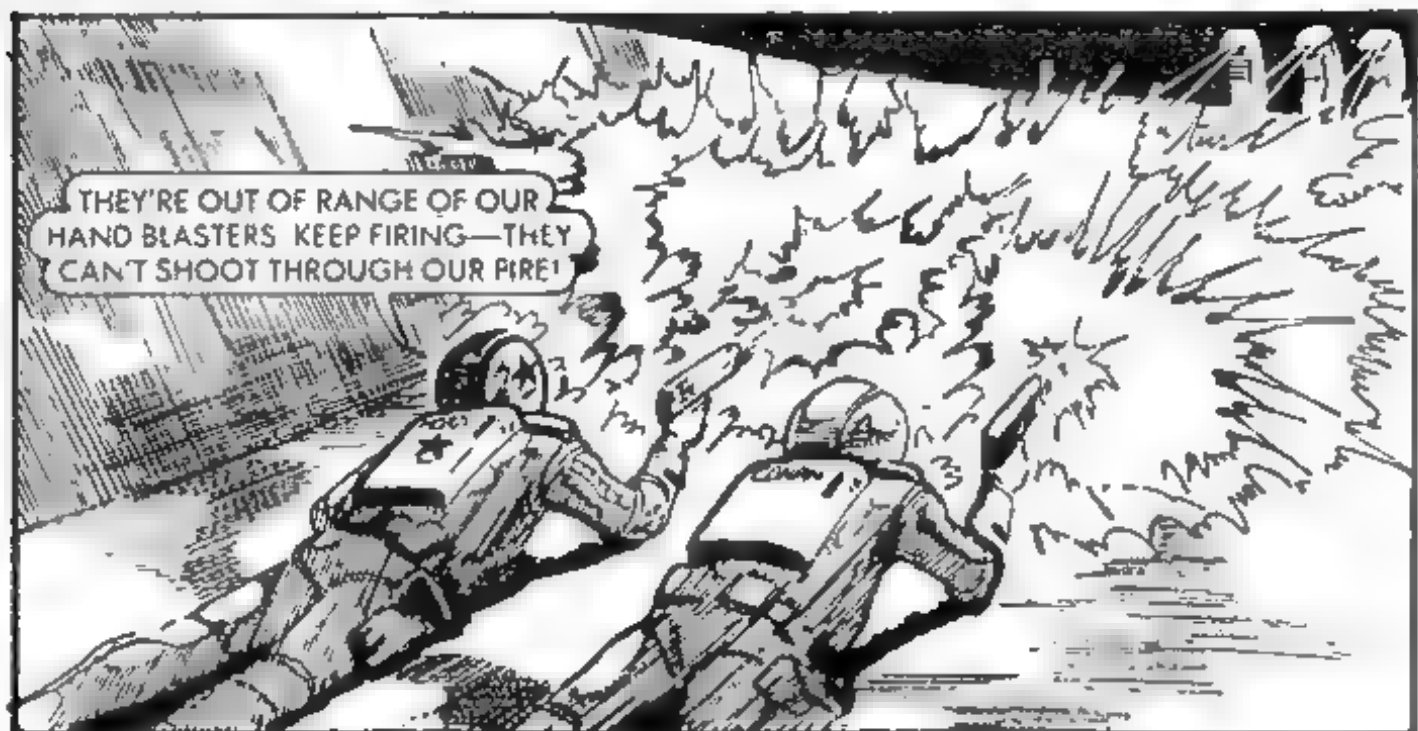
THE COMMANDOS LOWERED THEMSELVES DOWN
WITH THE AID OF THEIR SELF-CONTAINED WINCHES





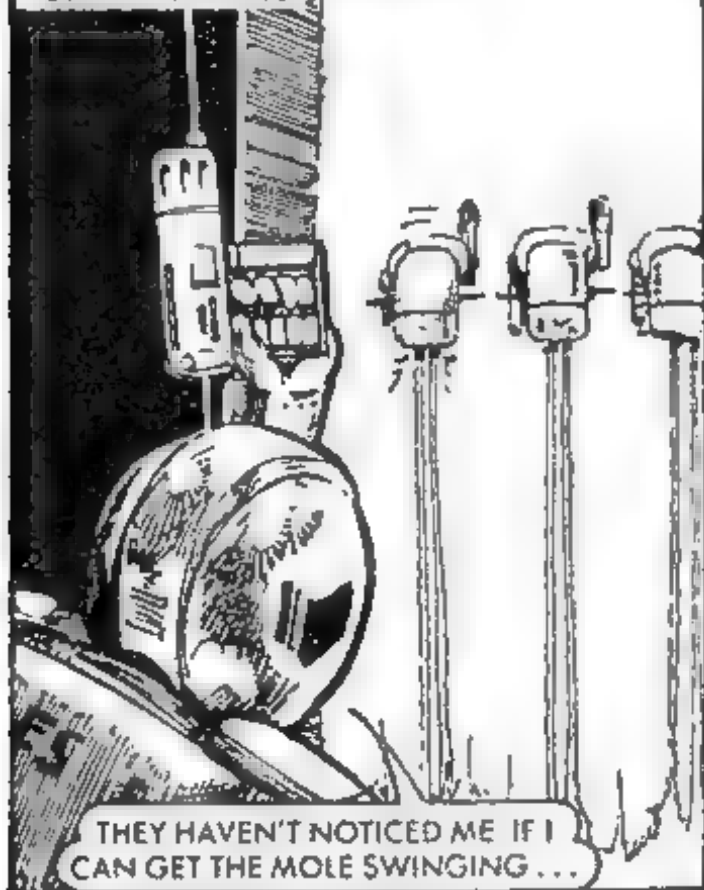


GET DOWN!



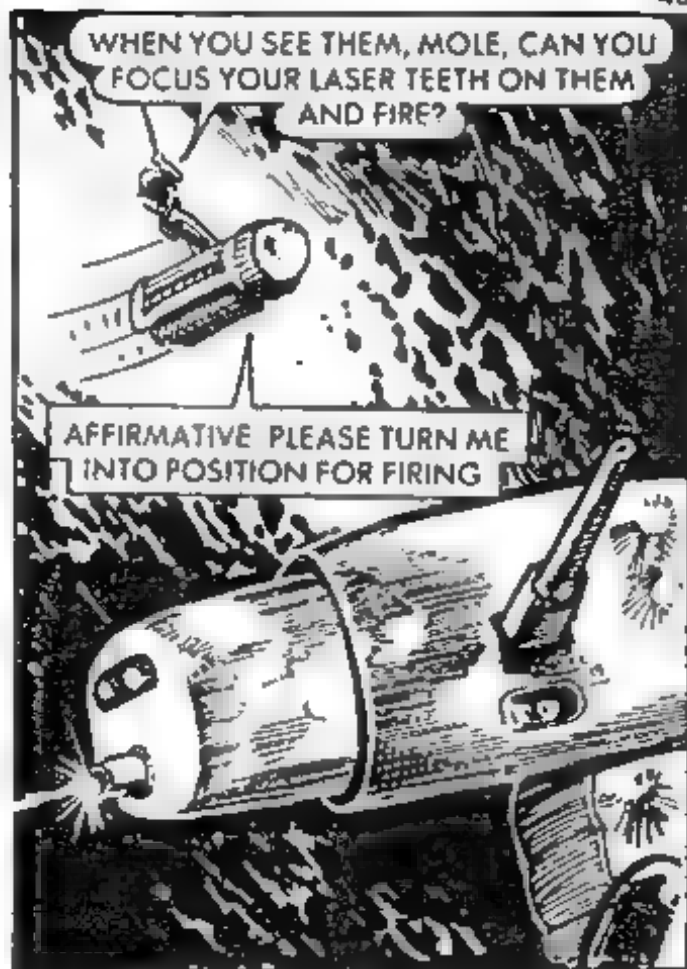
THEY'RE OUT OF RANGE OF OUR
HAND BLASTERS. KEEP FIRING—THEY
CAN'T SHOOT THROUGH OUR FIRE!

HIGH ABOVE JUKES WATCHED THE
DESPERATE BATTLE



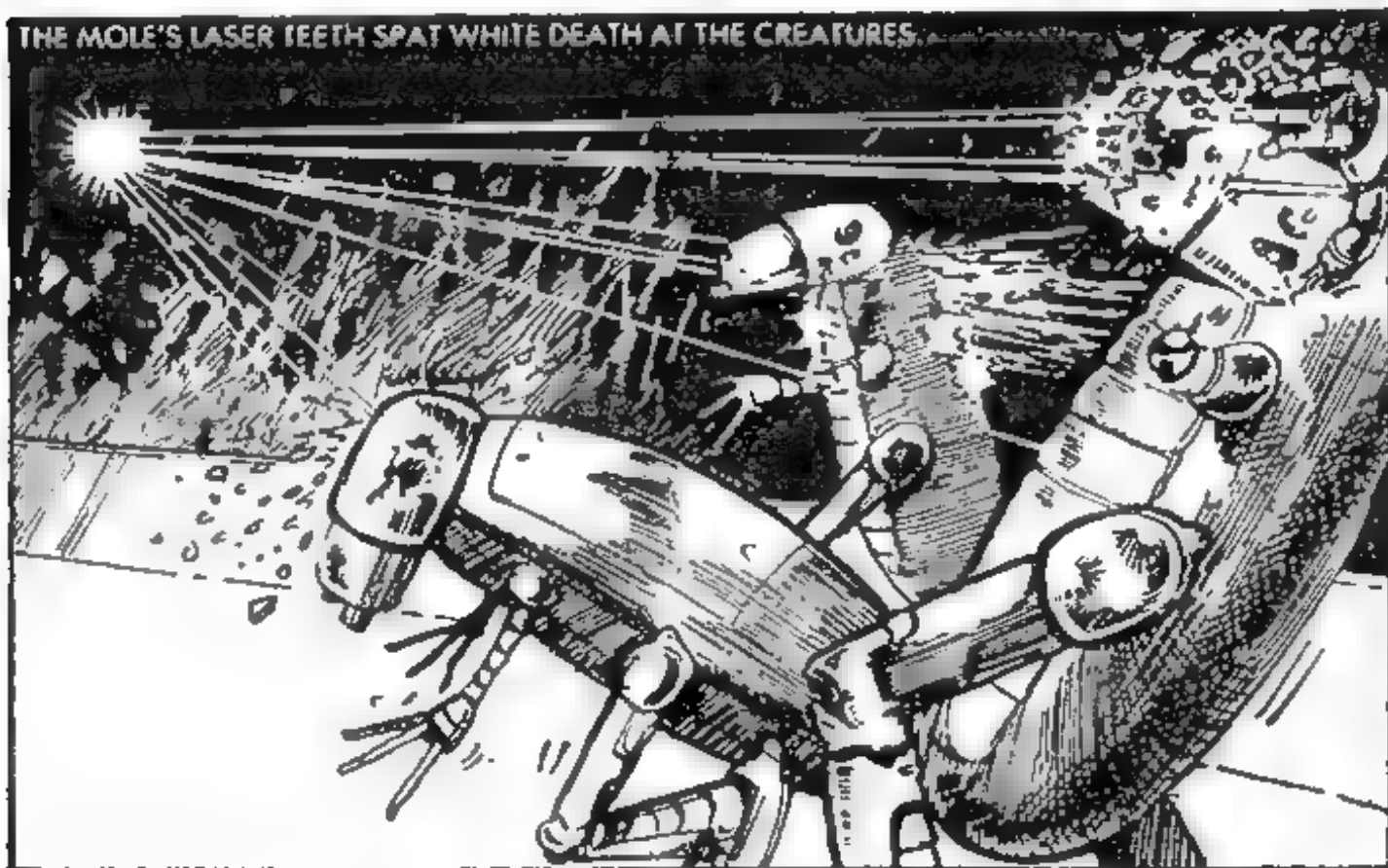
THEY HAVEN'T NOTICED ME IF I
CAN GET THE MOLE SWINGING ...

WHEN YOU SEE THEM, MOLE, CAN YOU
FOCUS YOUR LASER TEETH ON THEM
AND FIRE?

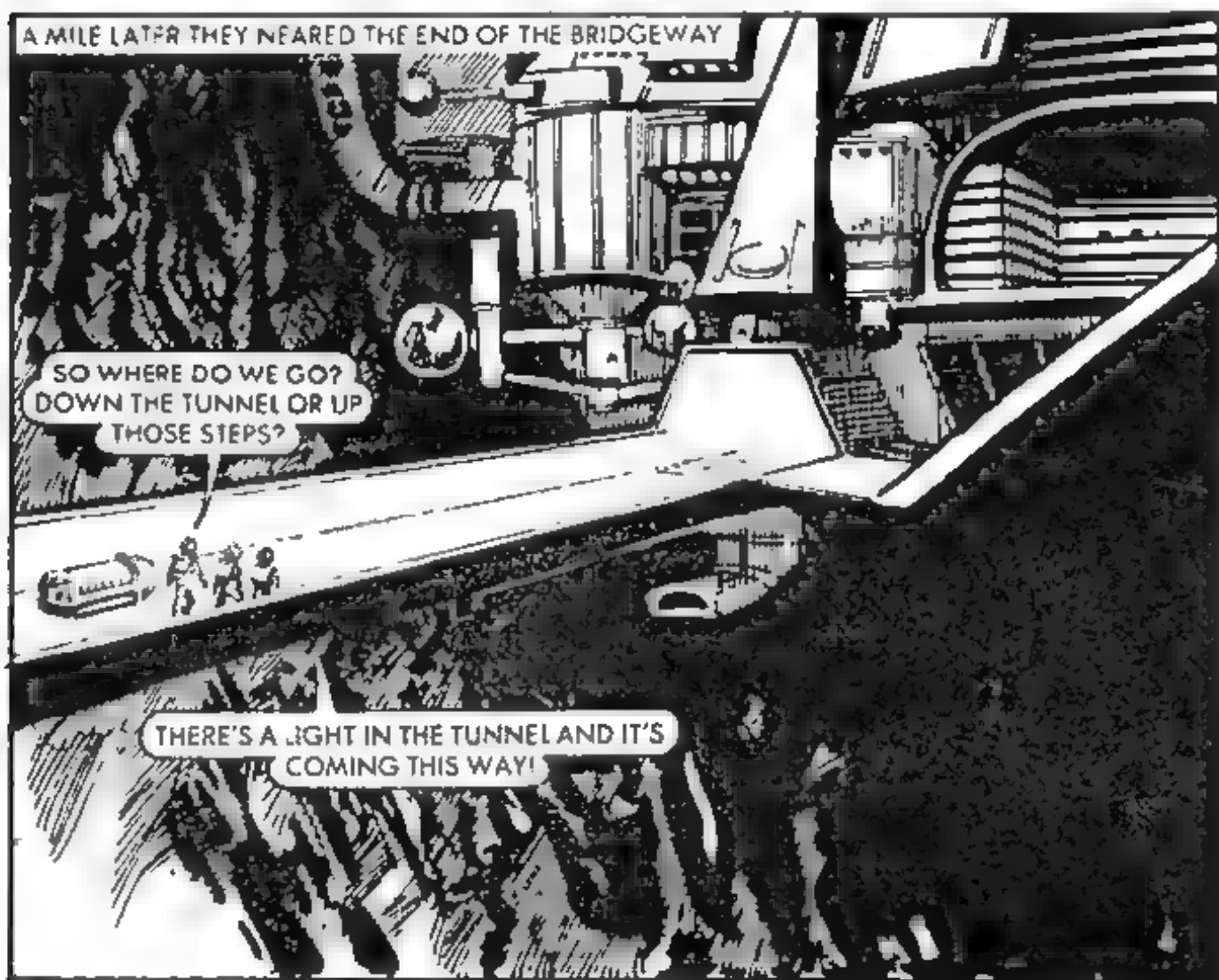


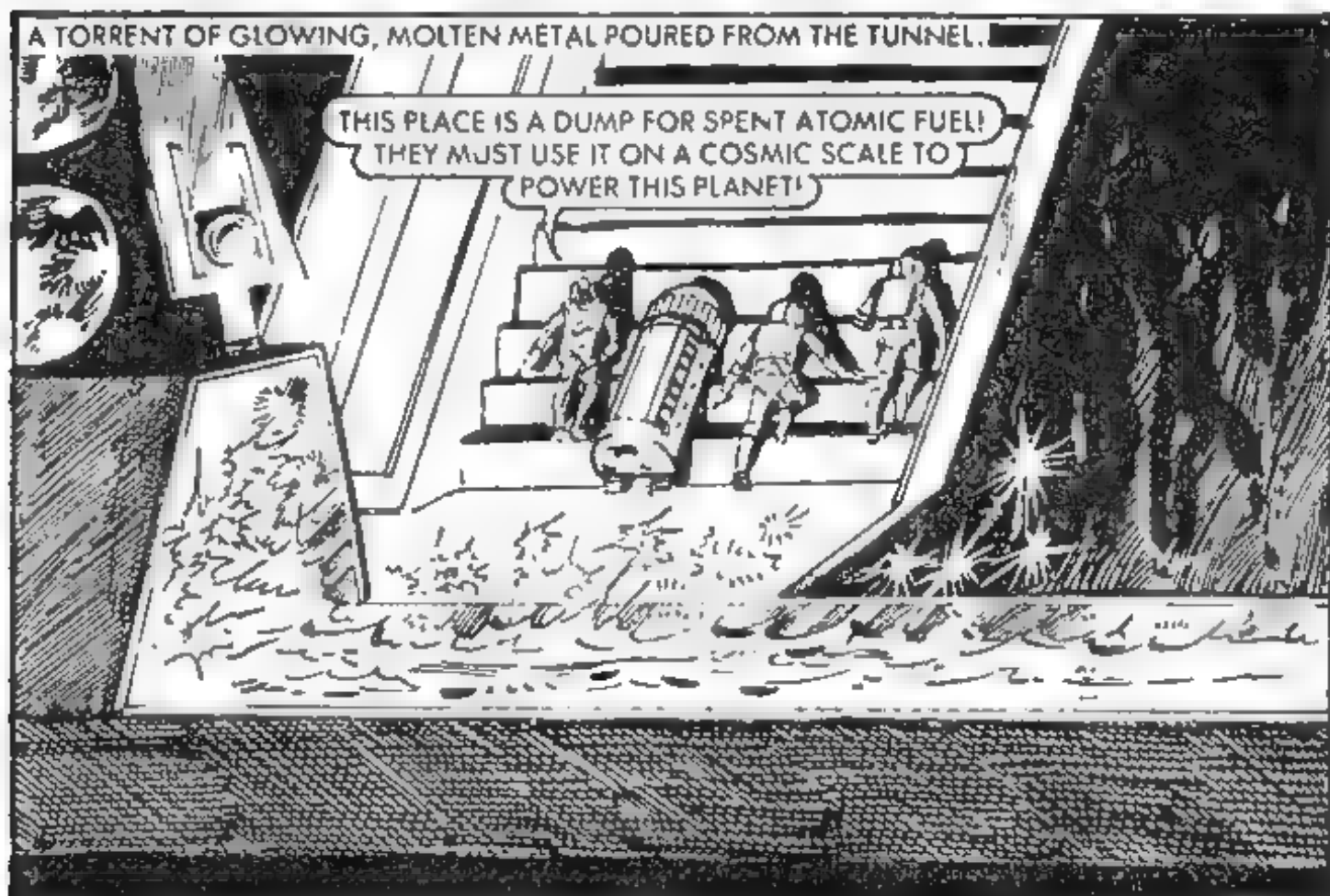
AFFIRMATIVE PLEASE TURN ME
INTO POSITION FOR FIRING

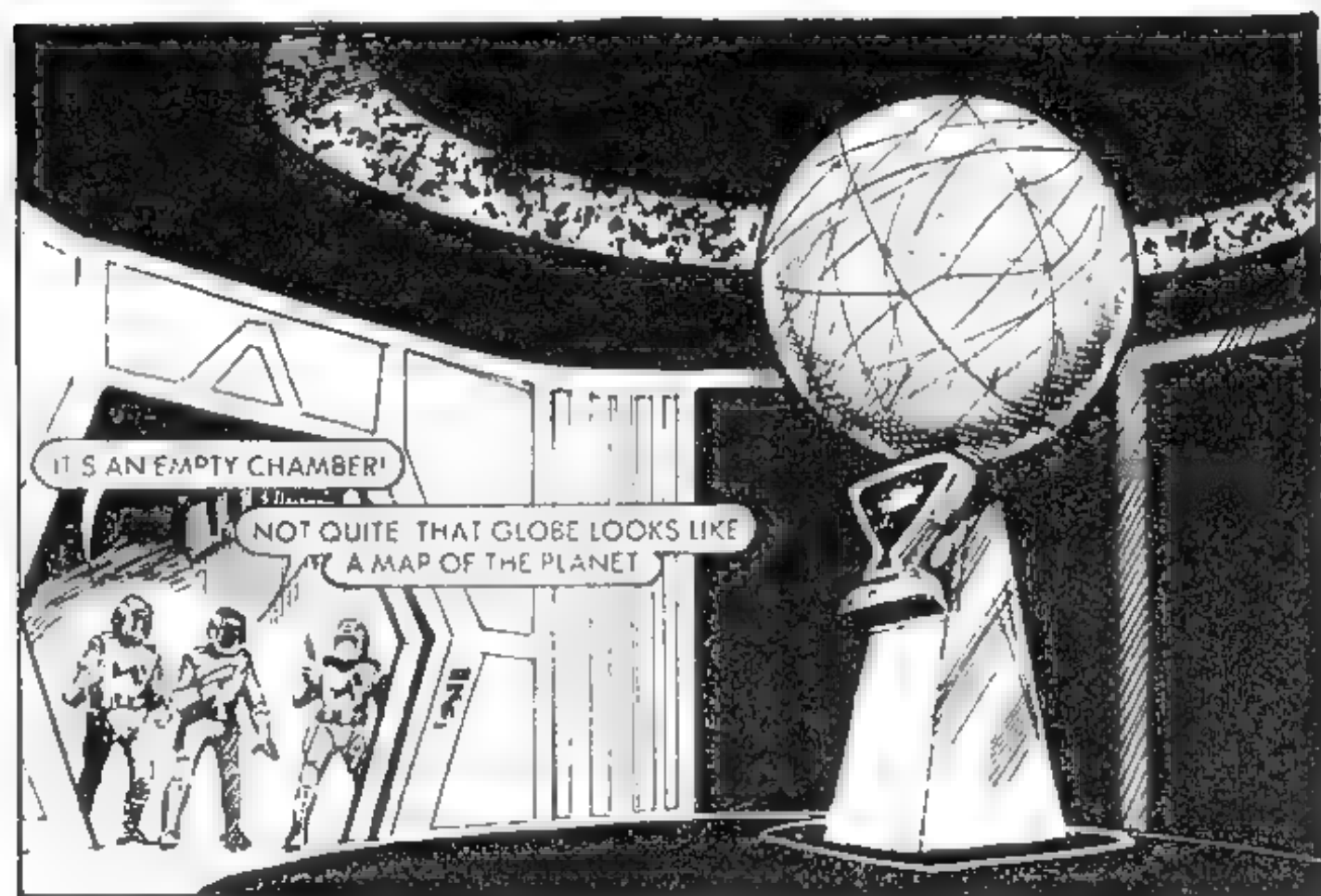
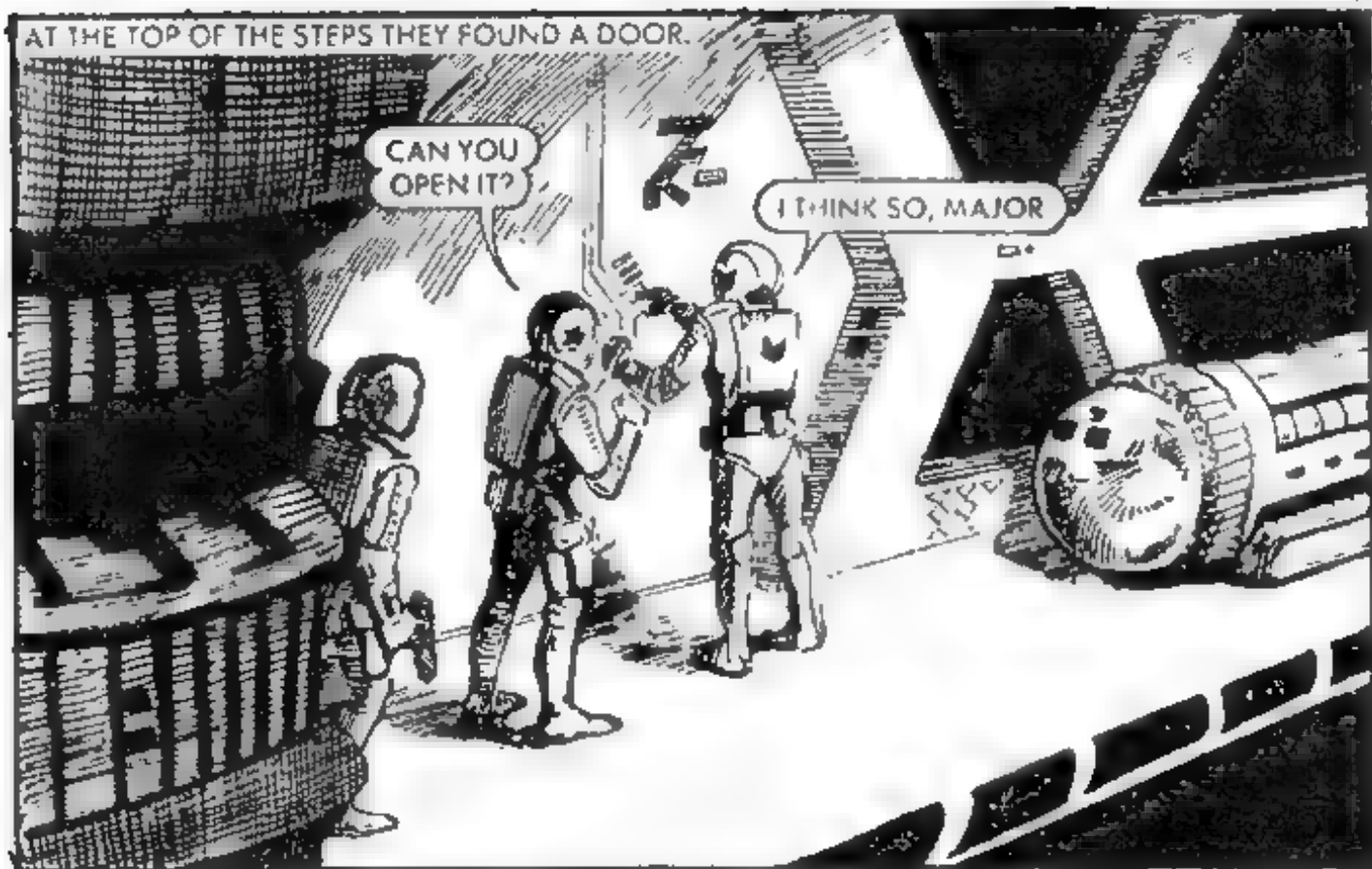
THE MOLE'S LASER TEETH SPAT WHITE DEATH AT THE CREATURES.





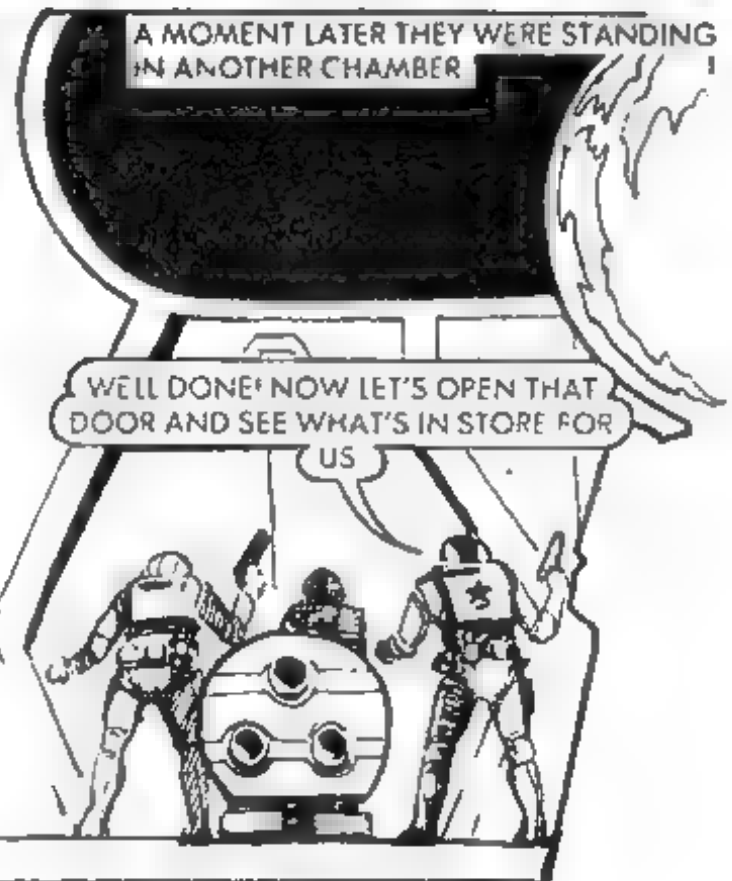


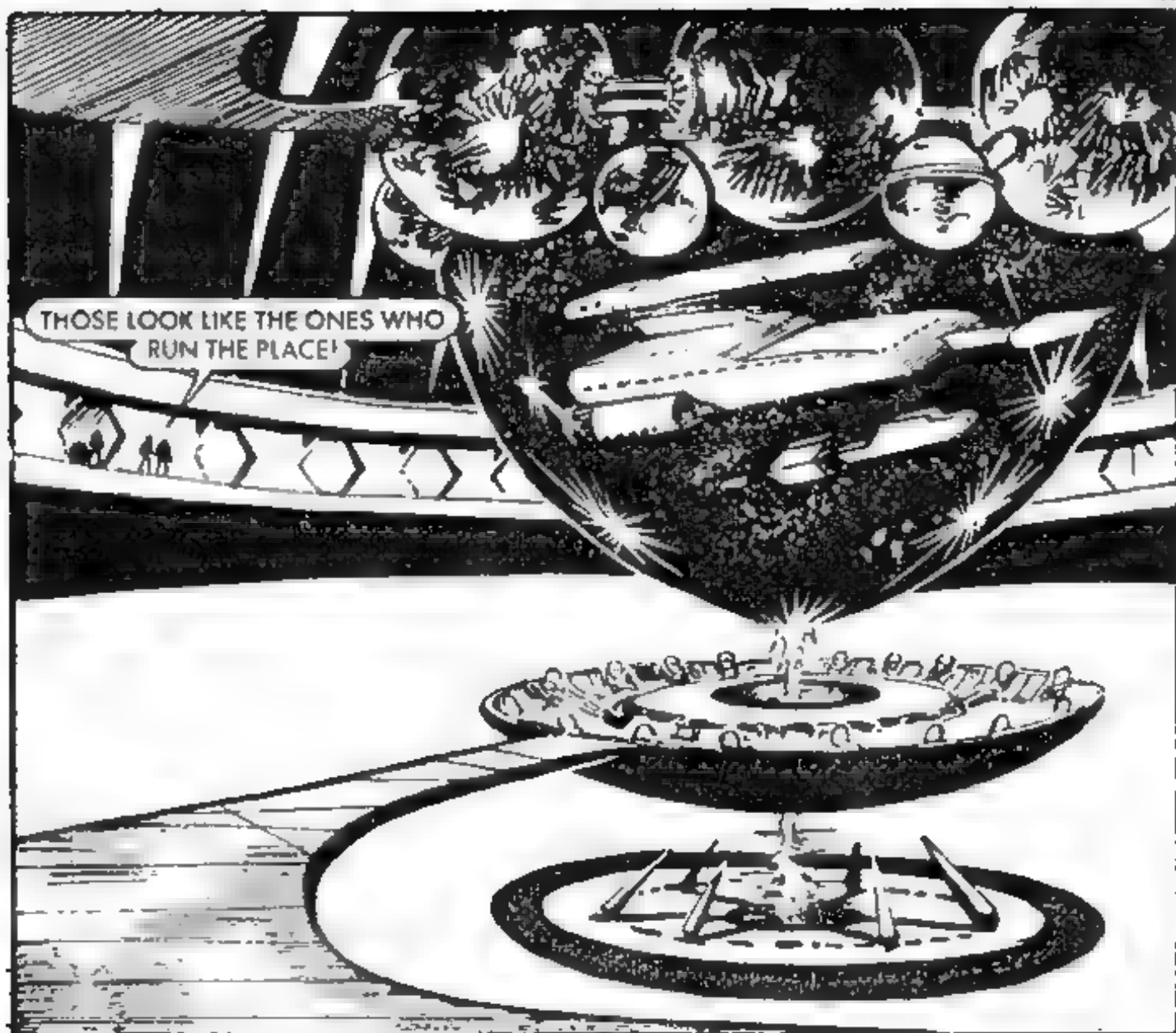






THE CONTROLS WERE OF STANDARD PATTERN







LEAVING THE MOLE BEHIND THE THREE COMMANDOS FOLLOWED THE LEADING ALIEN



BEFORE OUR SUN EXPLODED TEN THOUSAND YEARS AGO AND HURLED US OUT INTO BLACK SPACE, WE MOVED UNDERGROUND PERFECTING THE MEANS TO STEER OUR PLANET.

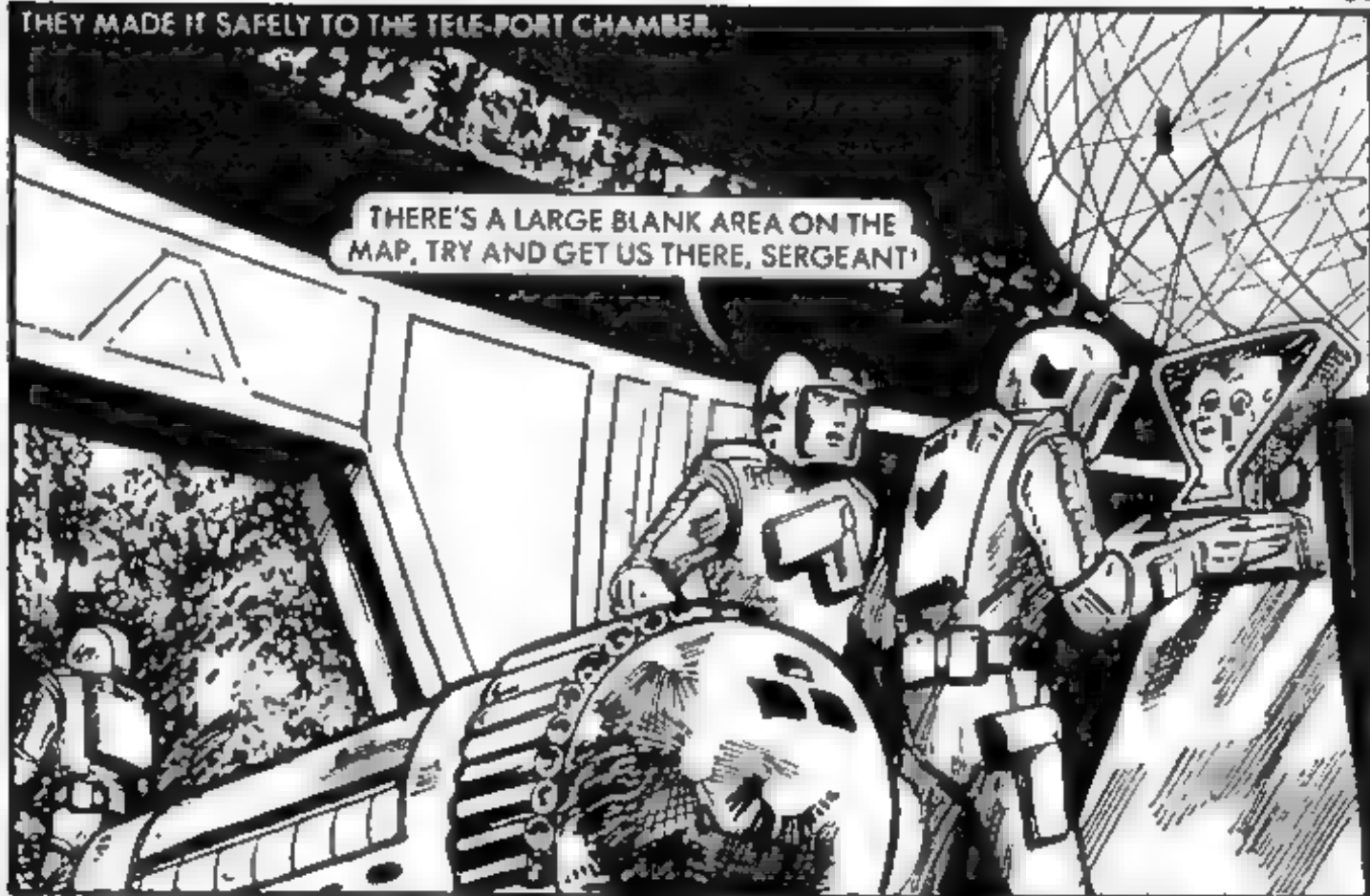
WE INTEND TO ENTER PERMANENT ORBIT ROUND YOUR SUN BY KNOCKING EARTH ASIDE OUR ENERGY SHIELD WILL PROTECT US

YOU'LL SWOP PLACES WITH EARTH!



THEY MADE IT SAFELY TO THE TELE-PORT CHAMBER.

THERE'S A LARGE BLANK AREA ON THE
MAP, TRY AND GET US THERE, SERGEANT!



LOOK OUT! WE'VE GOT COMPANY!

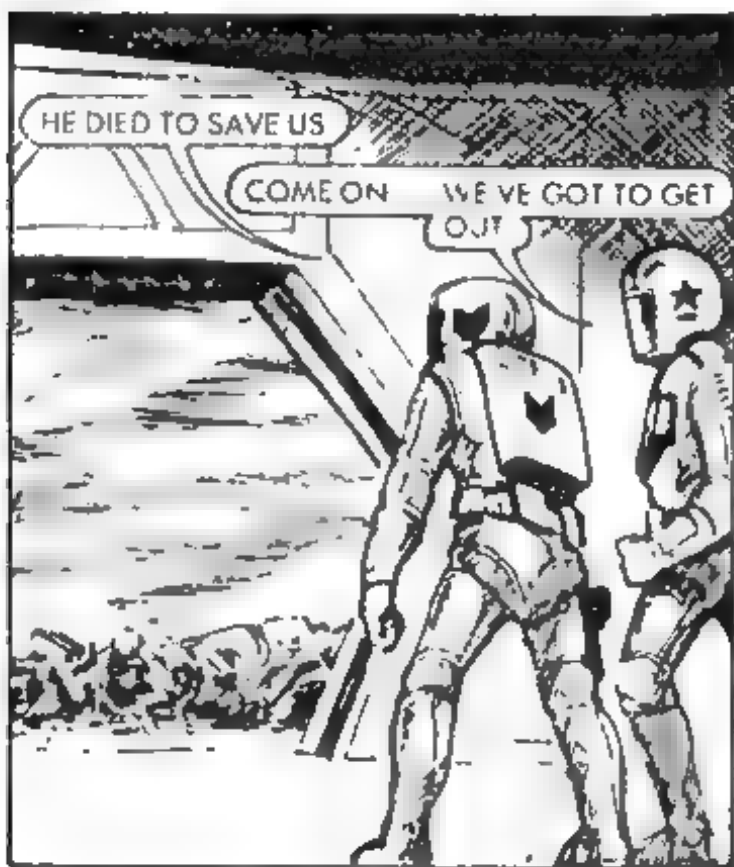


THE COMMANDO LEAPT AT THE FLOATING SLED SPINNING IT AS BOTH ALIENS FIRED AT HIM.



HE DIED TO SAVE US

COME ON WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT



WE'D BETTER MOVE OUT FAST
WE'VE STILL GOT A JOB TO DO!



A SECOND LATER THEY FOUND THEMSELVES IN A VAST, MACHINE FILLED HALL

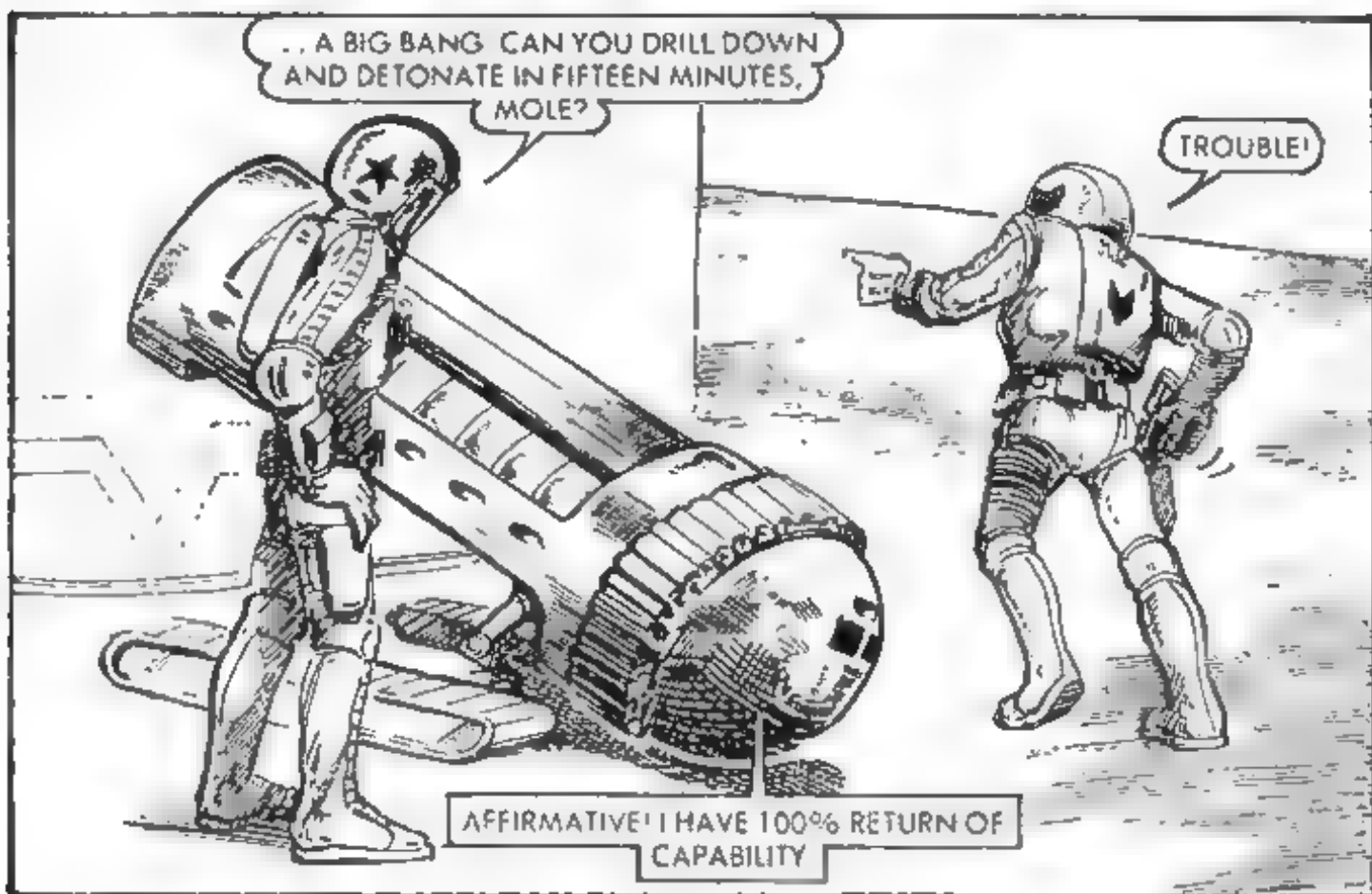
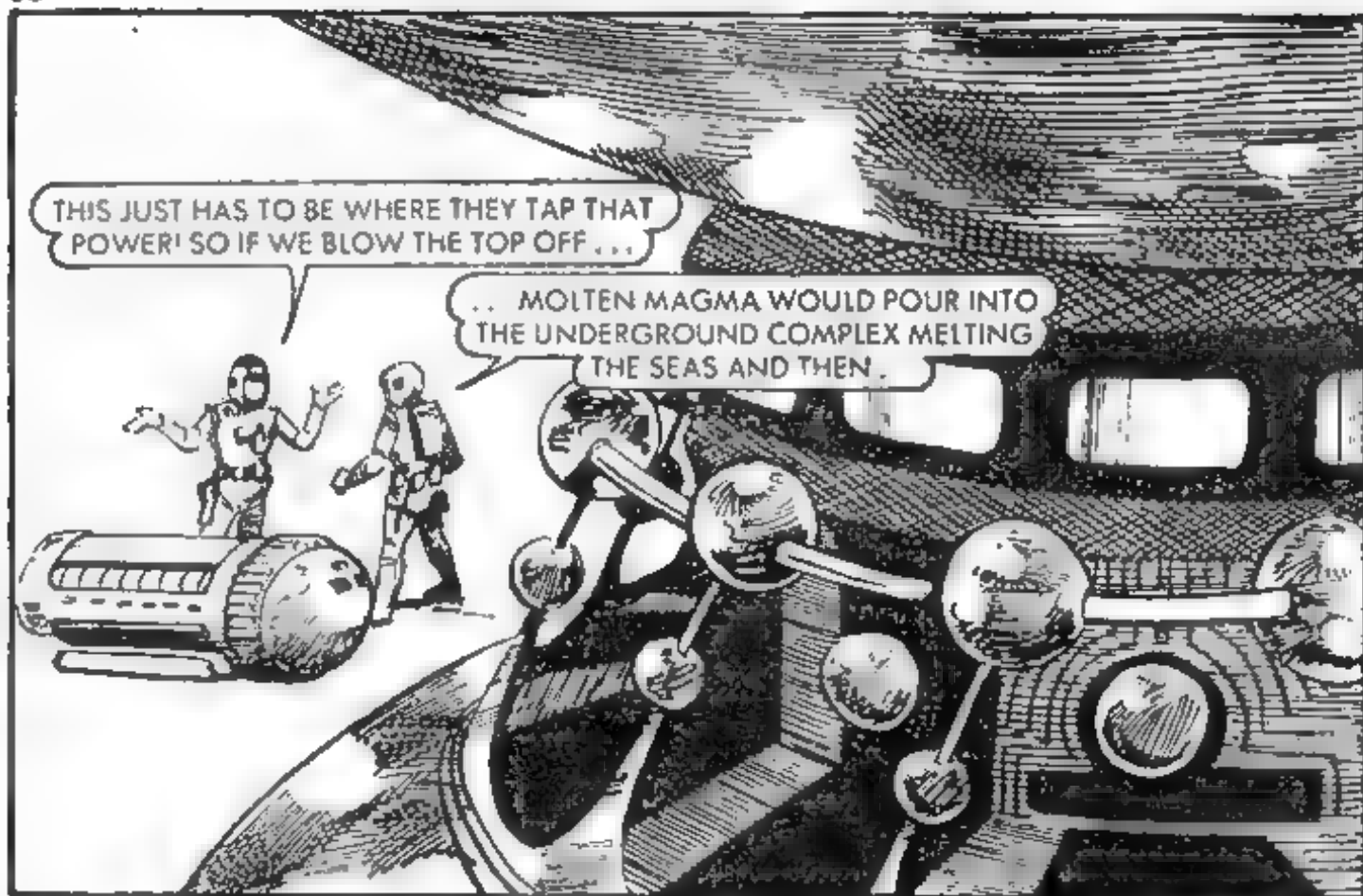


WHAT IS THIS PLACE? IT MUST BE
FIFTY MILES SQUARE!

FROM THE TELEPORT GLOBE I'D SAY IT WAS
NEARER THREE HUNDRED MILES!

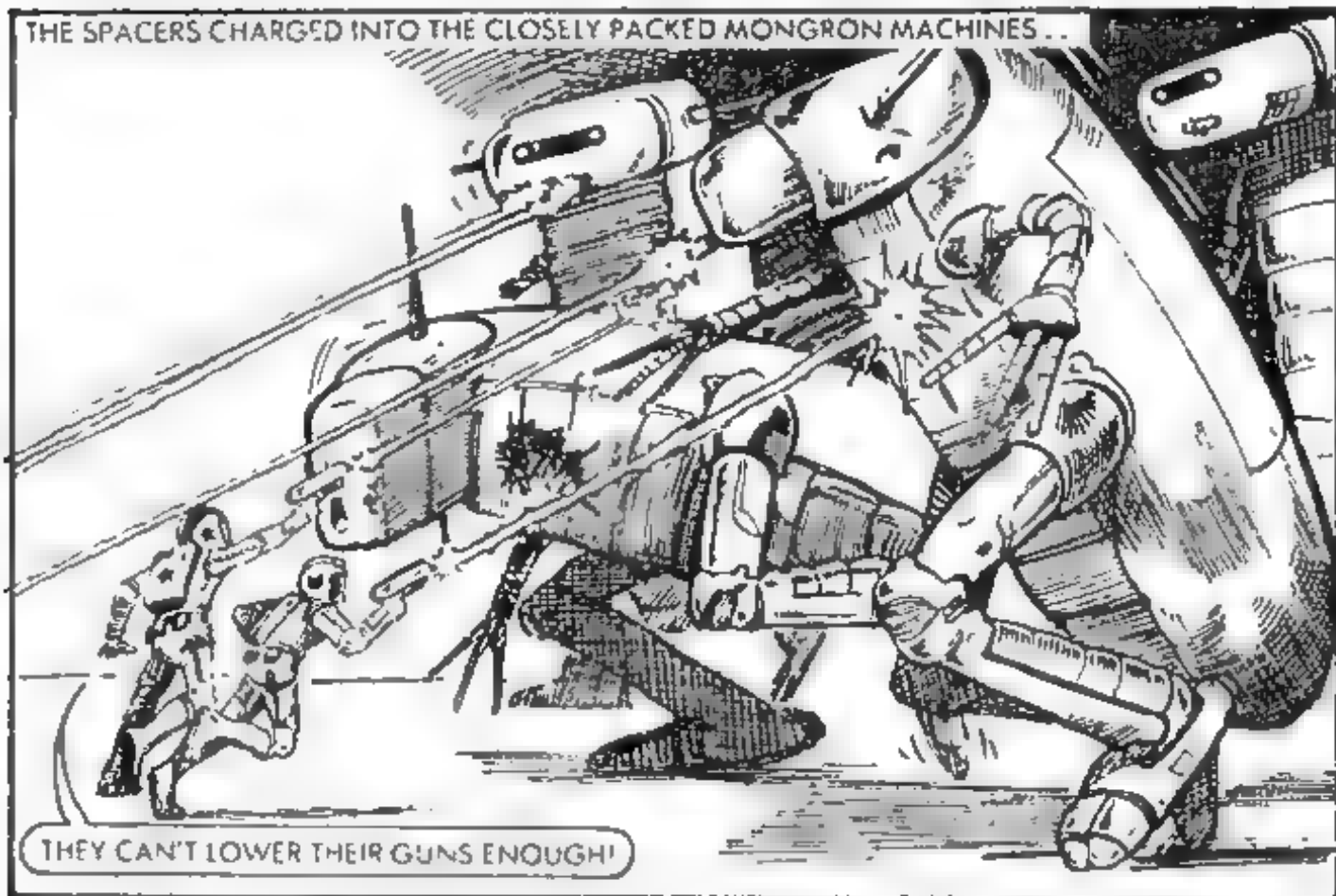


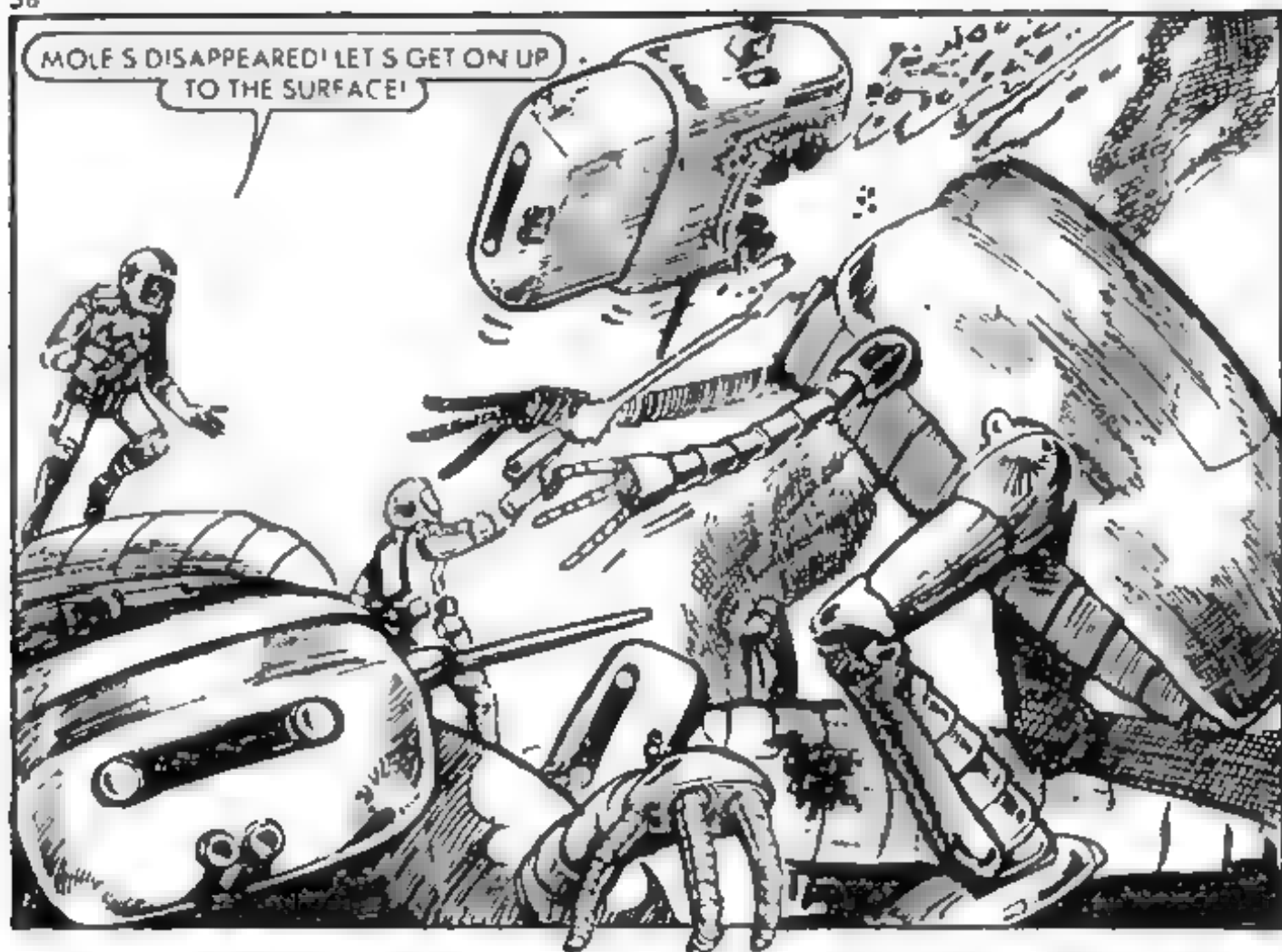
THESE CREATURES NEED A POWER
SOURCE OF IMMENSE SIZE TO FUEL
ALL THEIR ENERGY SYSTEMS. AND
THEIR POWER SOURCE HAS TO BE
THE MOLTEN HEART OF THE PLANET
— THE MAGMA!



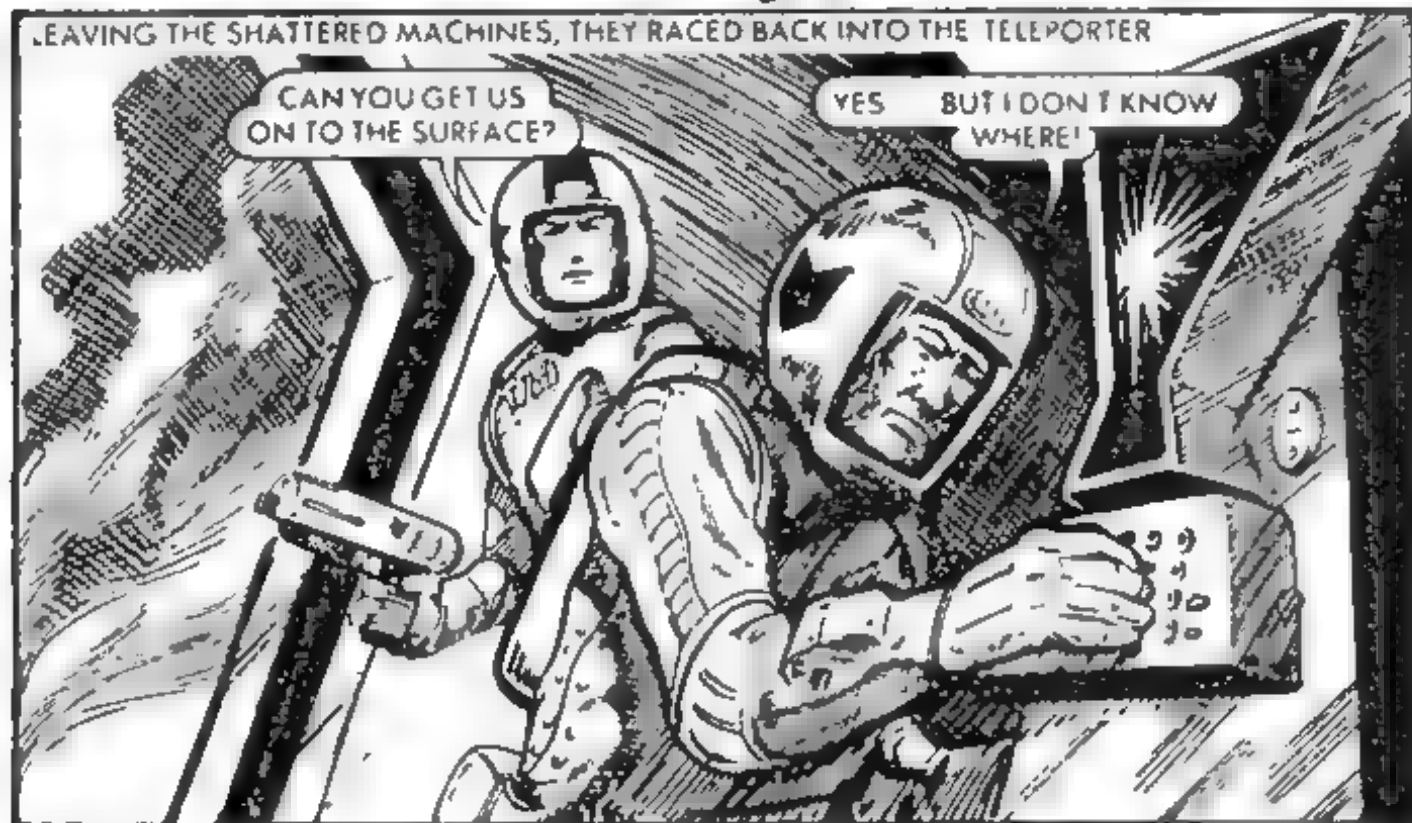


THE SPACERS CHARGED INTO THE CLOSELY PACKED MONGRON MACHINES...

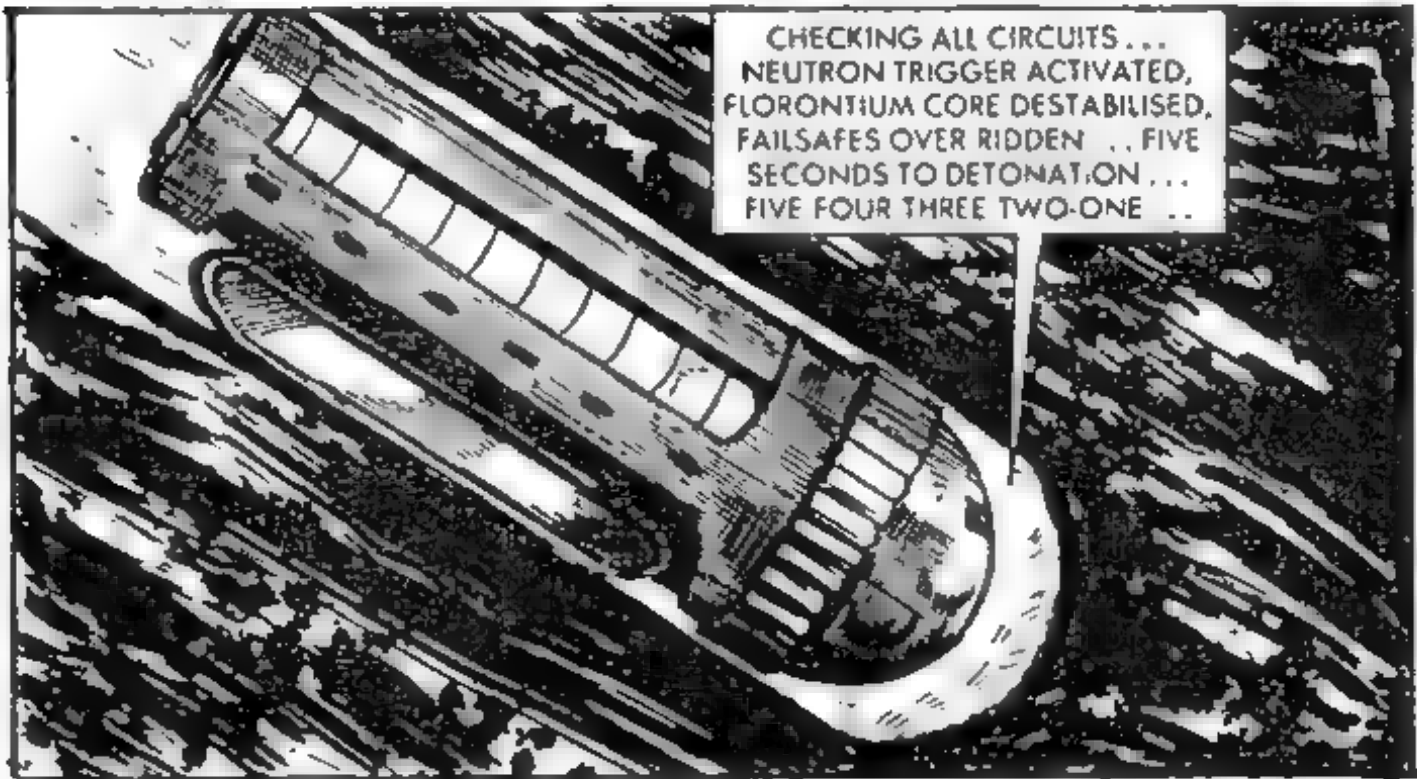




LEAVING THE SHATTERED MACHINES, THEY RACED BACK INTO THE TELEPORTER

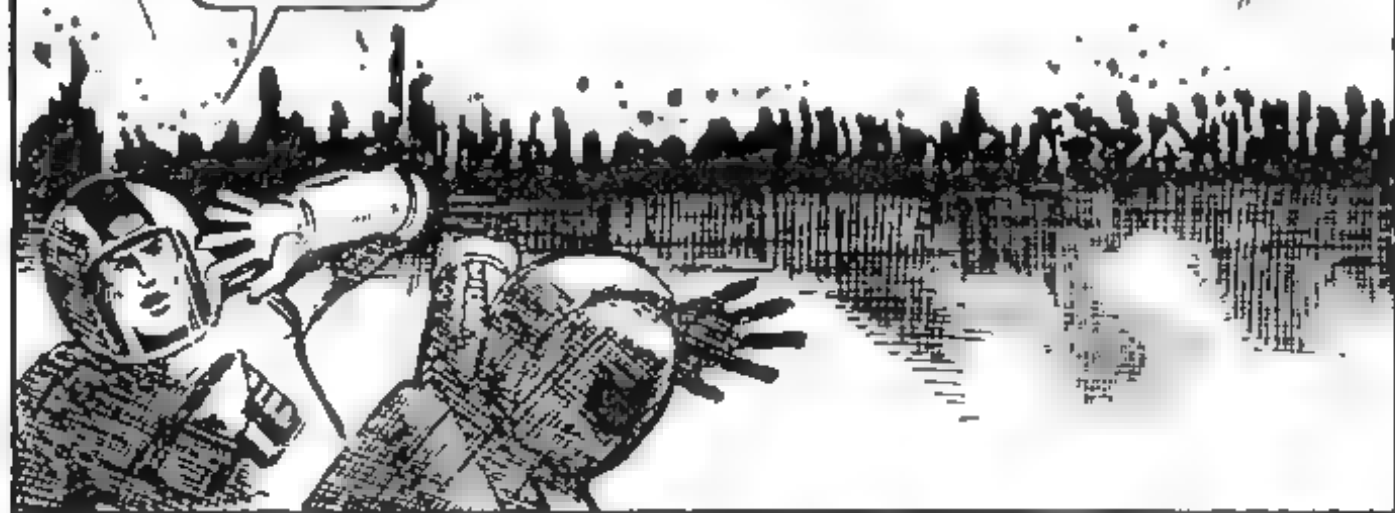


THE CONTROLS SLIPPED THEM ONTO A FROZEN SEA.

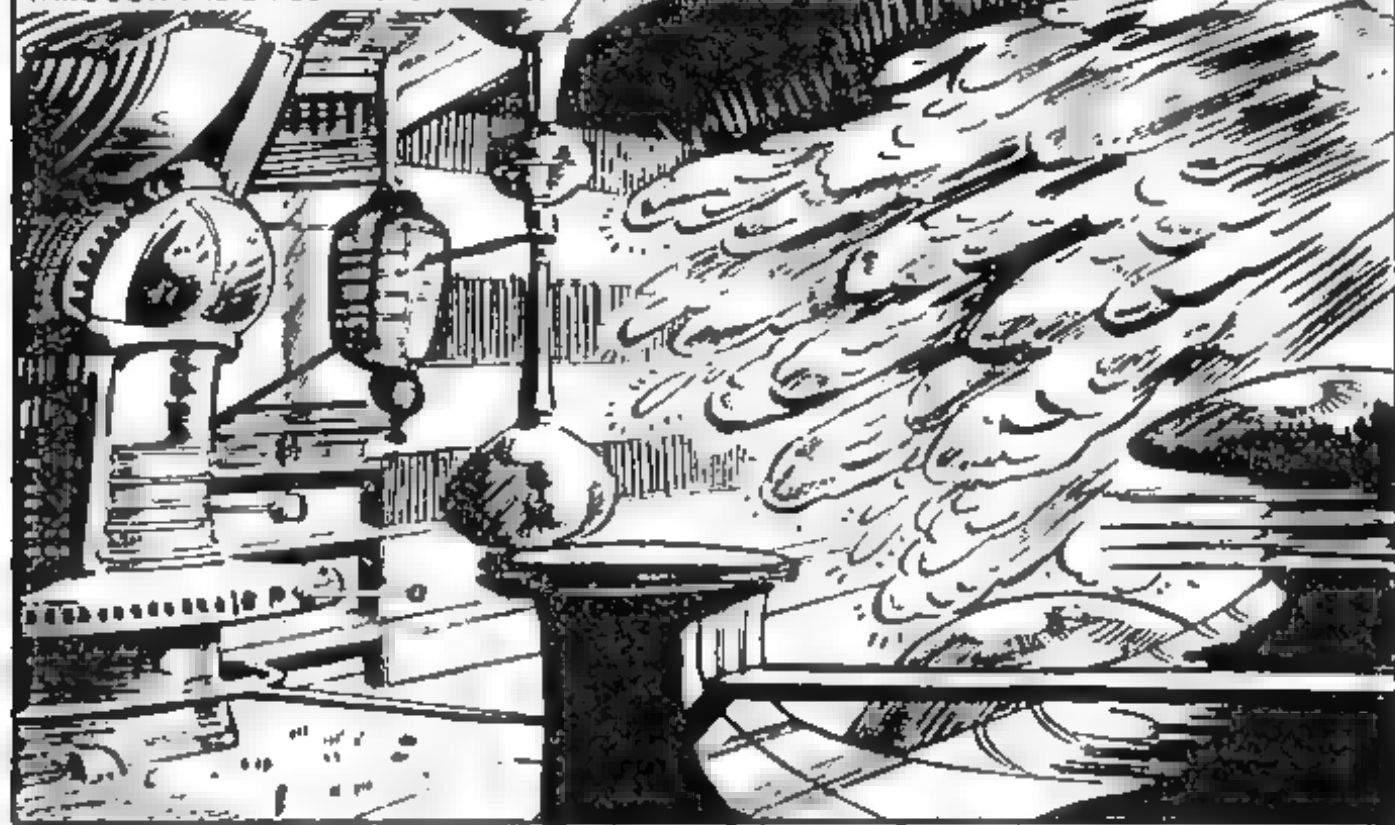


THREE HUNDRED MILES AWAY FROM THE SPACERS A MOUNTAIN RANGE DISAPPEARED

THERE GOES MOLE! SWITCH YOUR
MAYDAY BEACON ON. WHEN THAT
ENERGY COCOON FADES WE MIGHT
GET A RESCUE

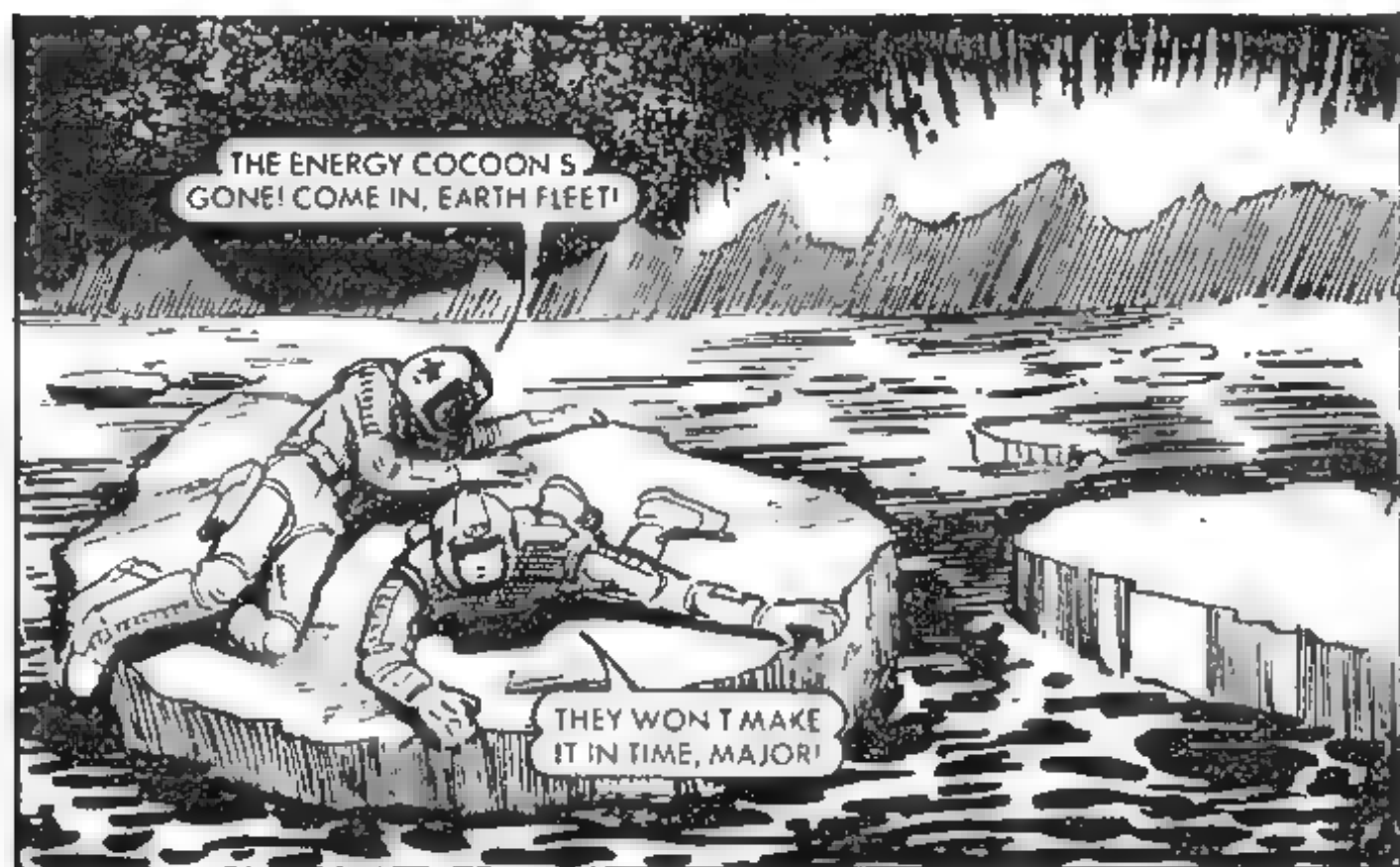
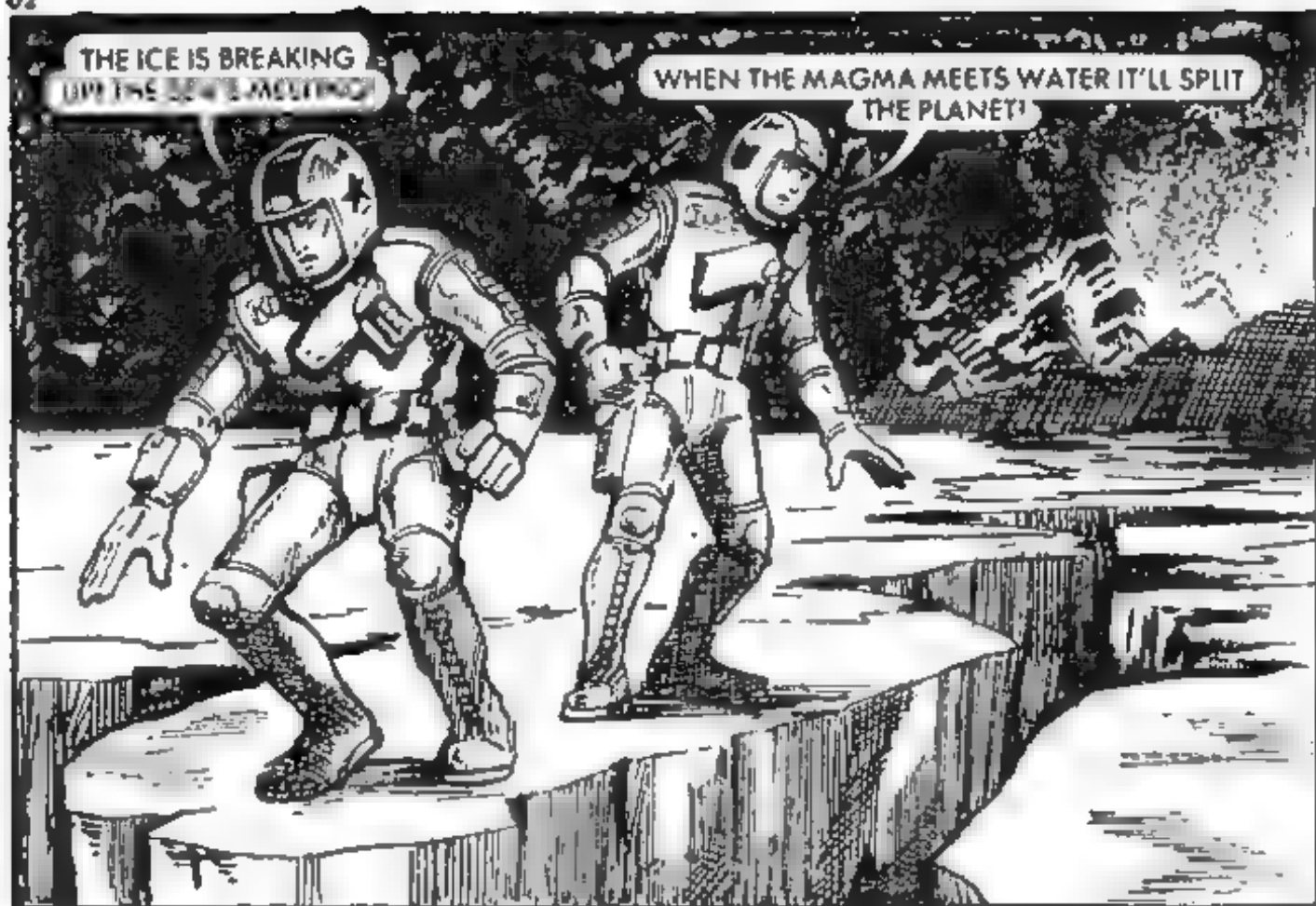


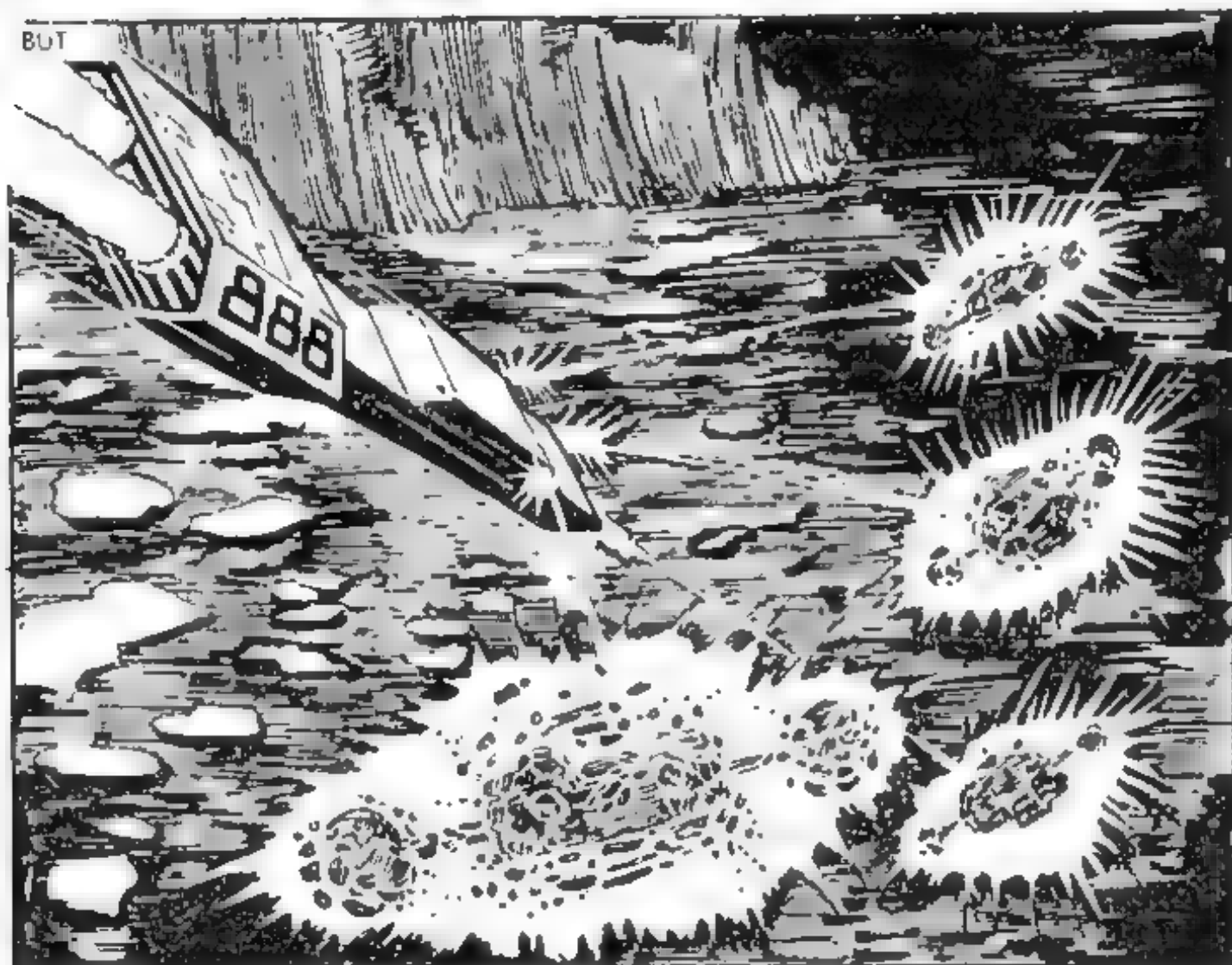
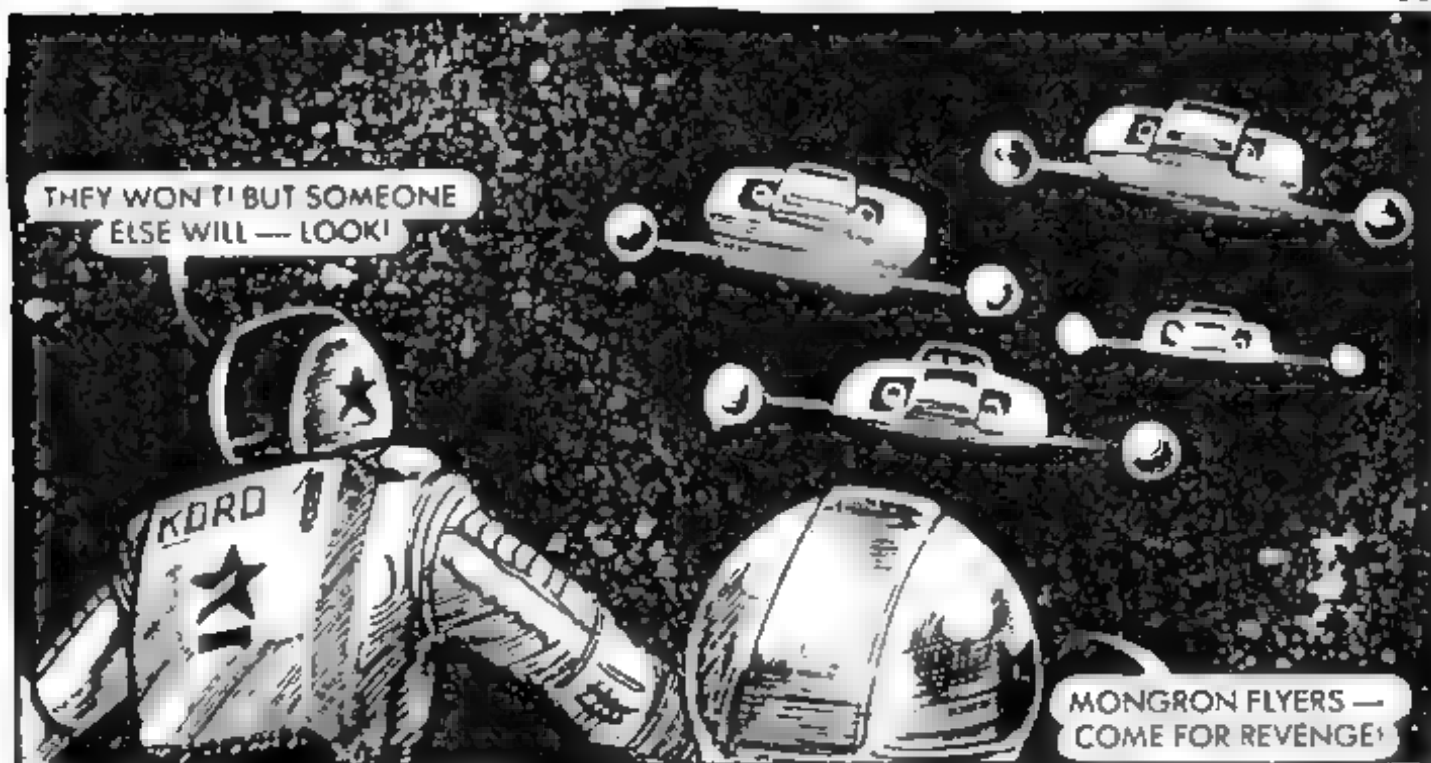
UNDERNEATH THE PLANET, THE MAGMA FLOODED IN TORRENTS OF DESTRUCTION
THROUGH THE CITIES AND CAVERNS.

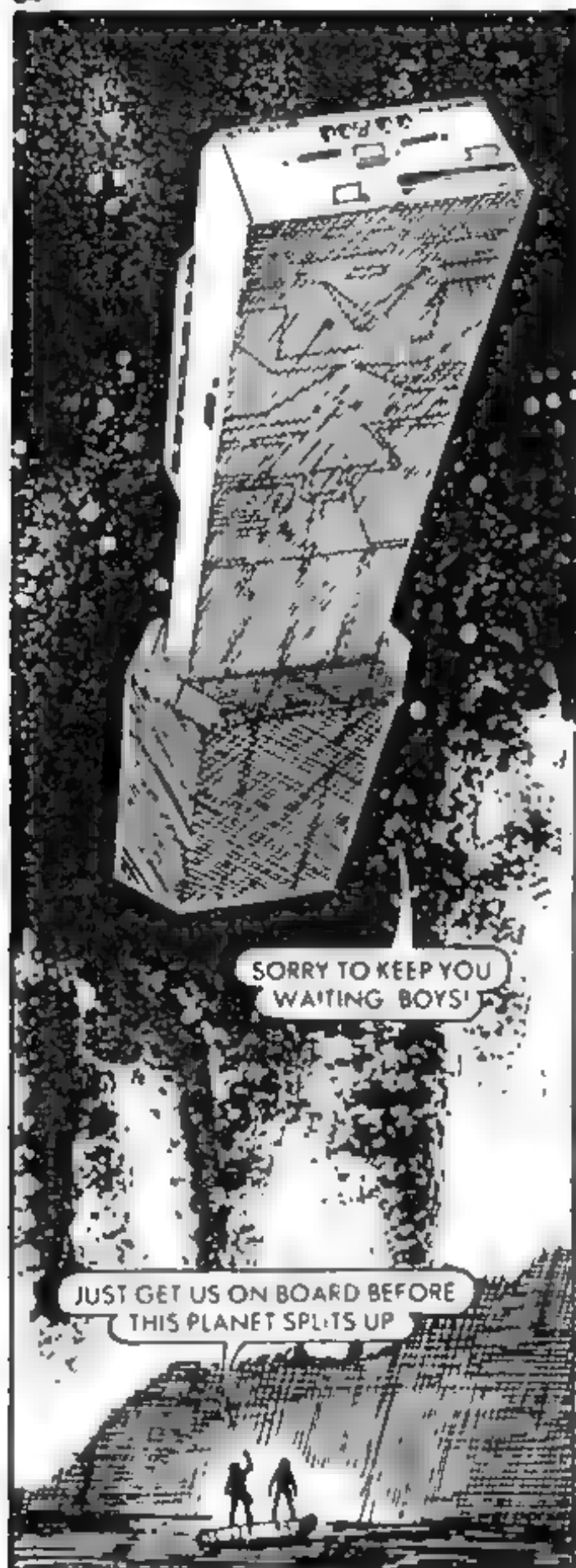


THE PRESSURE OF THE PLANET'S CORE FORCED THE MAGMA THROUGH EVERY CRACK
AND HOLE IN A FIVE HUNDRED MILE RADIUS

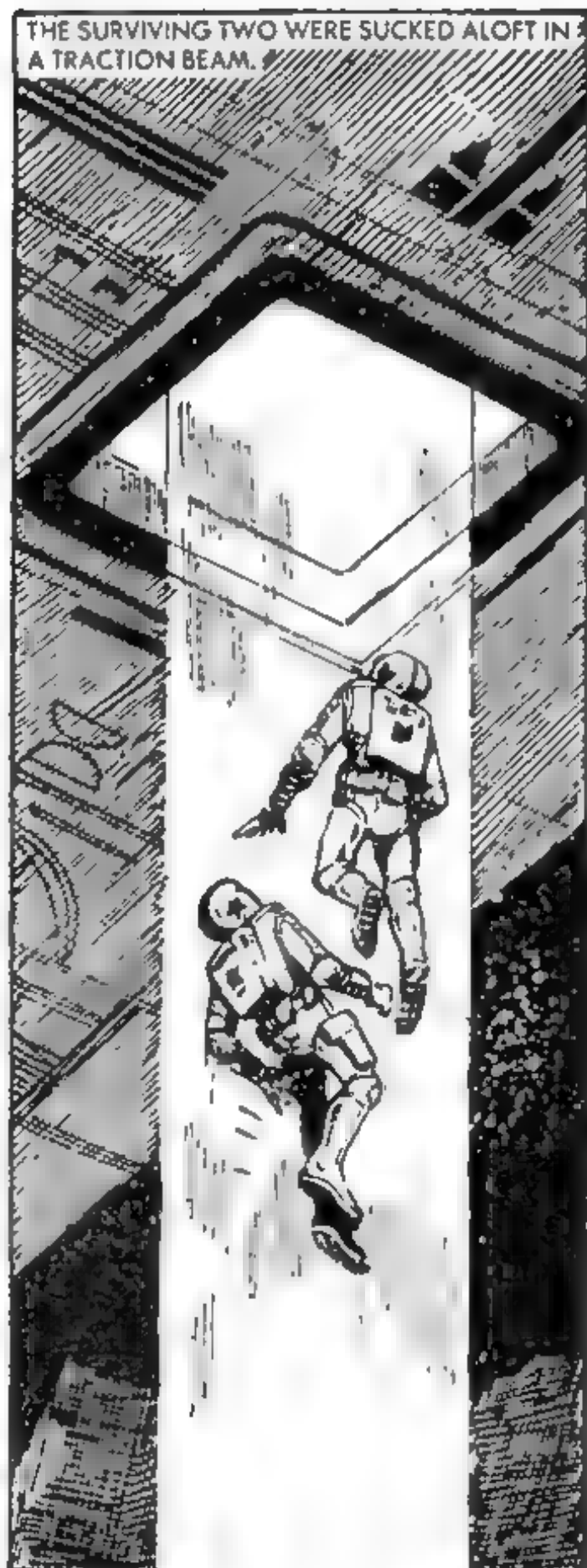




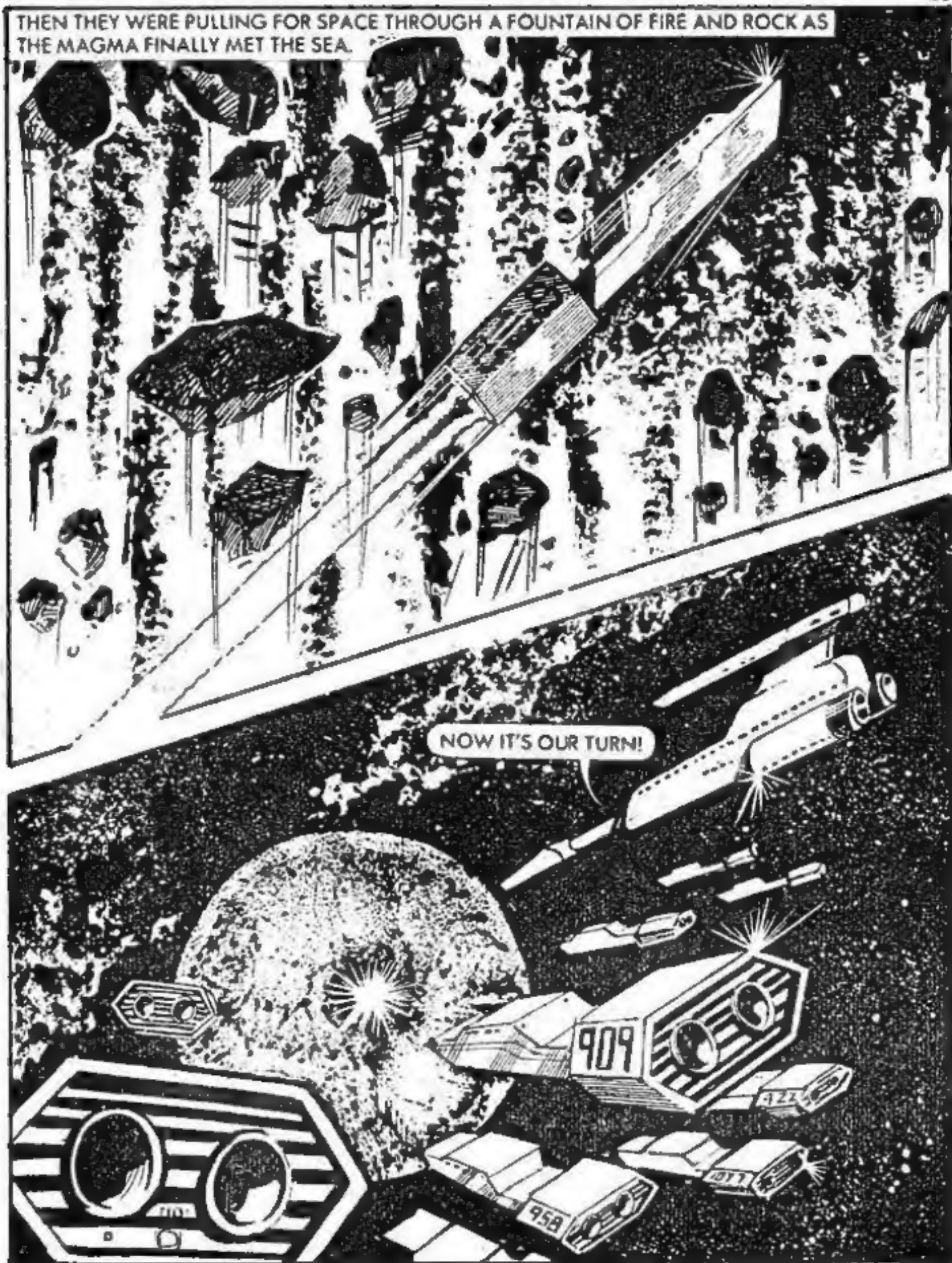




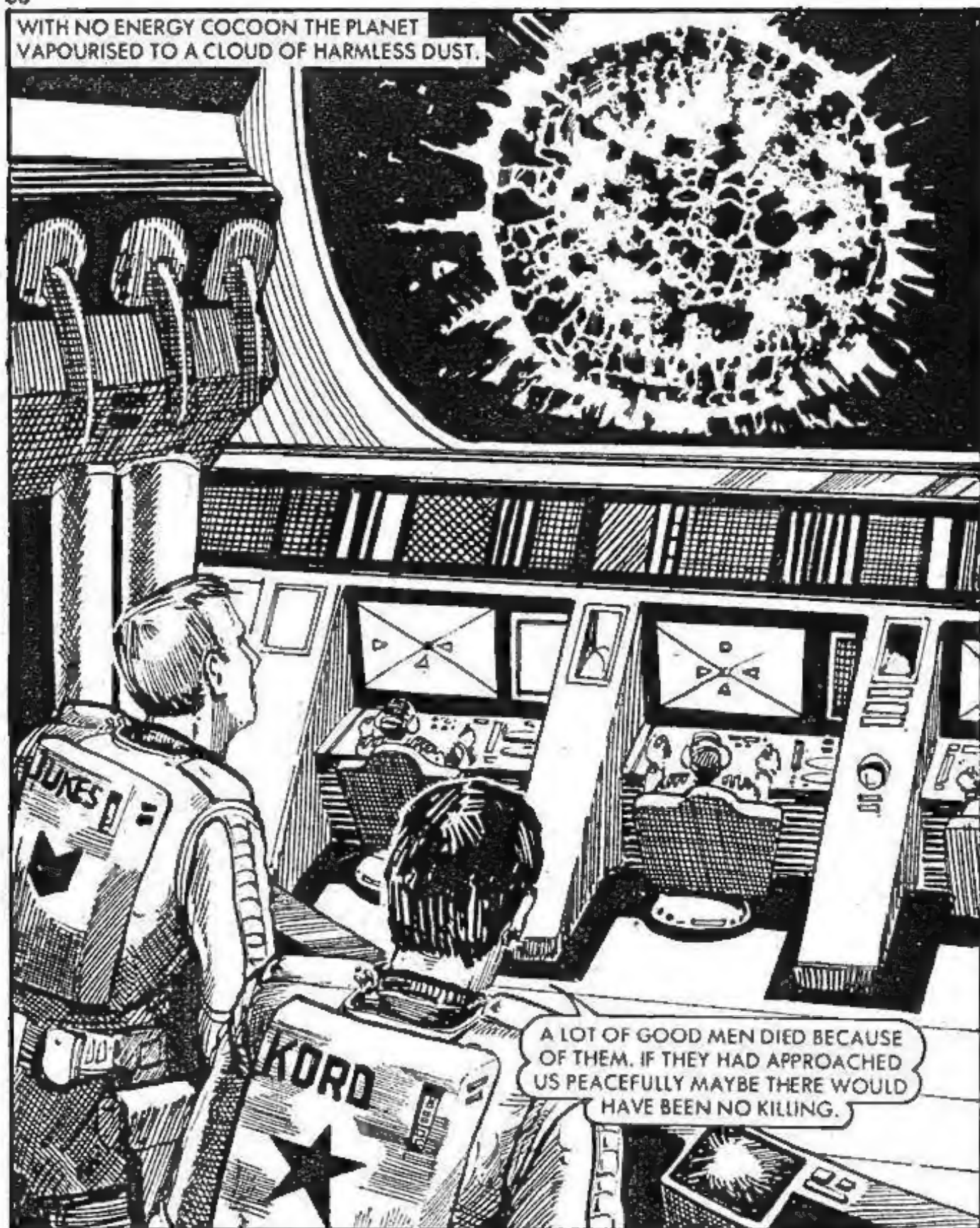
THE SURVIVING TWO WERE SUCKED ALOFT IN A TRACTION BEAM.



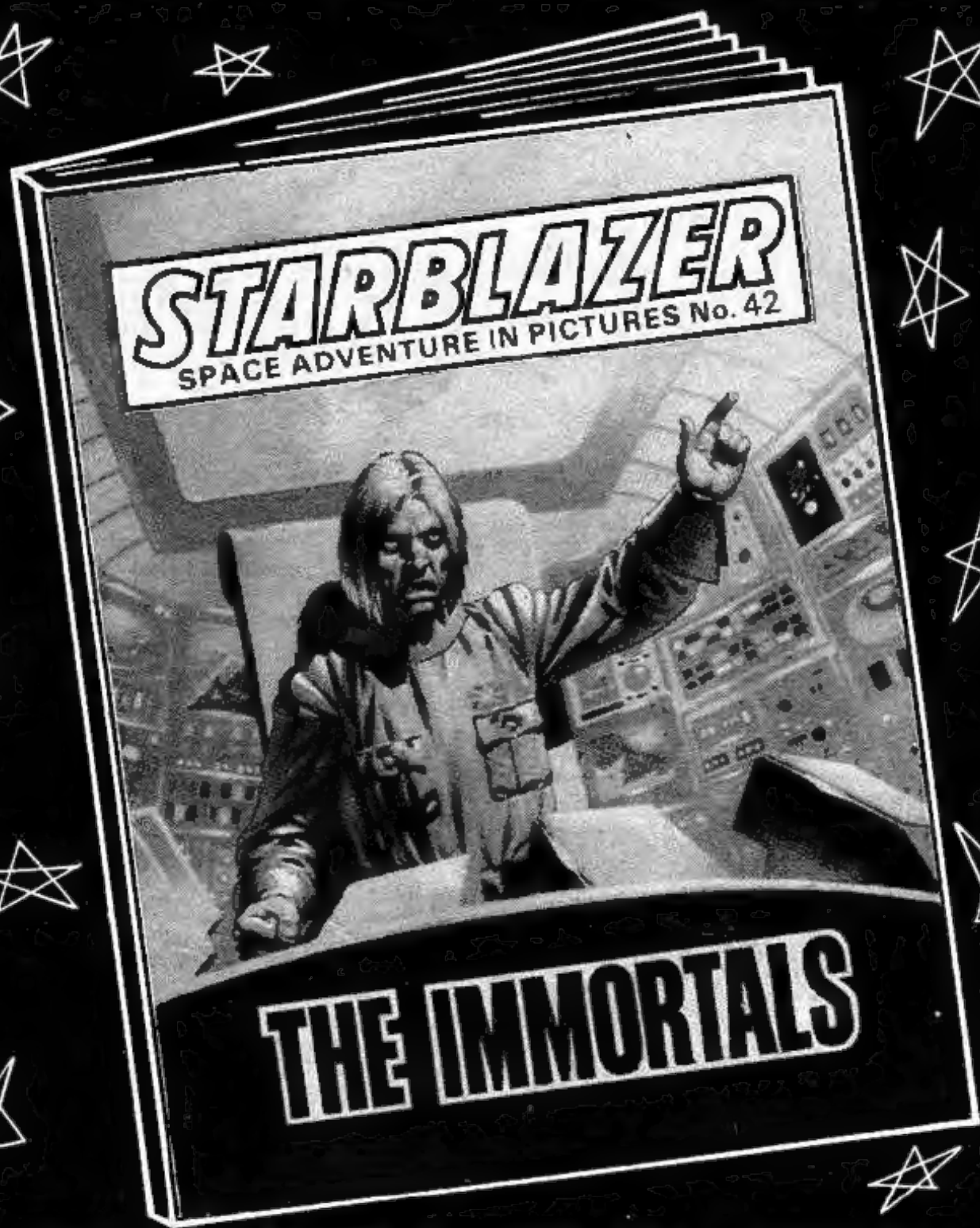
THEN THEY WERE PULLING FOR SPACE THROUGH A FOUNTAIN OF FIRE AND ROCK AS THE MAGMA FINALLY MET THE SEA.



WITH NO ENERGY COCOON THE PLANET
VAPOURISED TO A CLOUD OF HARMLESS DUST.



IT'S OUT OF THIS WORLD



THE IMMORTALS

**THIS MONTH'S OTHER ACTION-
PACKED STORY—NOW ON SALE**

STARBLAZERS

IN THE CONQUEST OF SPACE 43

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On 3rd July 1974, the first space spies were launched. They were the two-man crew of Soyuz 14, Pavel Popovich, originally the sixth man in space in 1962, and Yuri Artyukin. They manned the Spy-Lab, Salyut 3, for 14 days.